

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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SUMMER SCHOOLS SURVEY

Social Activities—Structure of Local Government— Comparative Public Administration

IN the August issue we reported in full the opening dinners held in connection with the Association's summer schools at Aberystwyth and Cambridge on July 11 and 18, respectively. We now report on the other activities connected with these schools.

No doubt the term "summer school" still creates in the minds of some members the impression of a week of hard labour and little pleasure. For the benefit of those who are still under that impression, we may well begin this report by some description of the social activities connected with the schools. Both at Cambridge and Aberystwyth the students were quick to take advantage of the excellent facilities provided in these towns for tennis, cricket, boating, swimming, and walking, and, of course, at Cambridge there was cycling. But in addition to all these informal social activities, a number of official social events were organised.

At Aberystwyth, for example, all the students were the guests of the mayor at an official reception held in the Municipal Hall, on Monday, July 13. On the previous day, through the courtesy of the Cardiganshire Branch of the Association, a tour was arranged to Devil's Bridge, the well-known beauty spot near to Aberystwyth. On Thursday, July 16, students paid a most interesting visit to the National Library for Wales, while on the following day, they were the guests of the Cardiganshire Branch at a highly enjoyable smoking concert held at the Queen's Hotel, Aberystwyth.

At the Cambridge school, students were equally well provided with social events; in particular we may mention the trip by launch on the River Cam to Claythorne, organised by the Cambridge Borough and Cambridgeshire County Branches of the Association, and the highly enjoyable social evening organised at the conclusion of the school. In fact, the social life at the summer schools is such that it is no exaggeration to say that they provide a happy combination of a holiday and an educational course.

Keen Discussions

Before proceeding to describe the lectures given at the schools, it may be useful to comment on the quality of the discussions in which students participated. The discussions were of two kinds. In the first place there were the formal seminars at the end of each group of three lectures. The eagerness with which students participated in these discussions, and the type of

point which they made was ample evidence of the interest which they had taken in the lectures, and the fact that the number of students attending each school had been reduced by separate schools for England and Wales resulted in a much larger proportion of students taking an active part in the seminars. In addition, however, there were innumerable informal discussions in all kinds of places, at all times of the day and night, and on all types of subjects. In fact, many students expressed the view that these informal opportunities for making contact with officers from various parts of the country constitute one of the most helpful parts of a summer school.

Aberystwyth Lectures

In the space at our disposal, it is not possible to give full reports of all the eighteen lectures delivered at the schools, but we propose to comment on a number of topics raised by various lecturers. At the Aberystwyth school the lectures were on the general structure of local government, the economics of local government, and some current problems in local government, and were given by Mr. H. Lloyd Parry, of the University College of the South-West of England, Professor P. Ford, of the University College of Southampton, and Dr. W. A. Robson, of the University of London, respectively.

One of the most interesting aspects of the nine lectures given at Aberystwyth was the way in which the three lecturers approached what were essentially the same problems from different angles, and for different reasons. In the first place, for example, the problem of areas dominates

all discussion of English local government, and no description of the general structure of local government is complete without some reference to this problem. Mr. Lloyd Parry therefore dealt at length with the historical development of the existing local government areas, showing that these areas were deeply rooted in the past, but had changed singularly little in spite of the changing conceptions of the purpose of local government. He contended that the history of local government was also an explanation of present anomalies. But Professor Ford approached the same problem from the point of view of the economist, placing particular emphasis on the relation between the areas of local government and the costs of local services. On the other hand, Dr. Robson was concerned with the problem of areas in relation to the special problems of health, housing, poor law, and traffic, which he was discussing.

Opposition to Ad Hoc Bodies

In the same way, the recent tendency to create *ad hoc* bodies was the subject of much comment by each of the lecturers. Mr. Lloyd Parry approached this problem when discussing the distribution of the functions of local government—and was resigned to this development, as he saw



The above is a snap of the Prize Winners taken at the Scottish summer school. They are:
Seated: (Left) Mr. W. H. Roberts, Edinburgh, who won the prize on the result of the Royal Sanitary Association's examination.
(Right) Mr. Robert Nixon, B.L., Glasgow, one of the prize winners in the J. E. Highton Essay Competition.
Standing: (Left) Mr. J. K. Watson, Fife, who won the prize on the result of the examination for the Poor Law Diploma.
(Right) Mr. John N. Bateman, Alva, another of the prize winners in the J. E. Highton Essay Competition.

in it the solution of many of the current problems of local government. Professor Ford, however, asserted dramatically: "I am not an 'ad hoc-er,'" and proceeded to explain a number of factors which would make a return to *ad hoc* bodies unnecessary, if taken into account when the areas of local government were under revision. Dr. Robson was equally definite in his condemnation of the recent development of *ad hoc* bodies, and explained in great detail the various ways in which the *ad hoc* movement was making the local government service a declining service. His attitude to the problem was perhaps summarised when he said: "You cannot believe in local government and also believe in the present return to the *ad hoc* ideas."

Central Control

The only other problem raised at Aberystwyth, with which we can here deal, is the problem of central control. Mr. Lloyd Parry was mainly concerned to trace in detail the historical development of central control over local government, and to explain in detail the various ways in which this control was secured. Professor Ford, however, argued that while the central government was eager to exercise its control in certain directions, it was, in other instances, ignoring its responsibilities. As an instance of this, he explained that some of the most serious problems of local government were arising through the existence of areas of declining population due to internal migration. These depressed areas were, he contended, the direct result of the policy of central government, and the central government, not the local authorities, should be made to accept the burden of these areas. Dr. Robson's main references to central control came when he analysed the present position with regard to town planning, and he averred that what is being done in this connection at the moment is totally inadequate, and that we must start from a national key plan into which local detailed plans should be fitted. He argued, however, that the Ministry of Health had given no indication that it understood the real meaning of town planning, and in the circumstances he was not optimistic that the required lead would be forthcoming from the central government.

Cambridge Contrasts

While in the Aberystwyth lectures it is interesting to pick out these points of similarity running through the three groups of lectures, at the Cambridge school points of contrast were much more in evidence, and this was perhaps to be expected as the lectures related to public administration in several different types of State. The Centralised State of France was dealt with by Professor Paul Vaucher, of the Universities of London and Paris; the Federal State and public administration in the United States of America were dealt with by Professor Rowland Egger, of the University of Virginia; while public administration in the Totalitarian States of Germany and Italy was described by Dr. Harry F. L. Goetz, of the University of Berlin.

Public administration in each of these

types of State is the result of a very different national tradition and history and is based on widely different conceptions, both of the purpose of public administration and of the best form of government. But the points of contrast in the Cambridge lectures did not only arise as an inevitable consequence of the subject matter of the lectures, but were also a consequence of the characteristics of the three lecturers. It is, for example, no mere myth that the Frenchman is logical. Thus, in the lectures by Professor Vaucher, there was not only an excellent description of French public administration, but an excellent example of a perfectly logical exposition of a subject. The lectures by Professor Egger, on the other hand, were typically American, for, although his language was more easy to follow than that of many Americans, his conversational manner and complete lack of formality appealed to the students as something essentially American. It has been said that one of the characteristics of the German nation is a love of organisation, and the lectures of Dr. Goetz supported this statement, for they were full of well-marshalled facts, carefully arranged and labelled.

SUMMER SCHOOL LECTURE NOTES

A few sets of the duplicated notes on the lectures given at the Aberystwyth and Cambridge summer schools are still available, and members requiring copies are requested to write to headquarters indicating whether they require notes on the Aberystwyth or Cambridge lectures. The charge of one shilling per set should accompany applications.

French Administration

We cannot deal in any detail here with the subjects of the various lectures on comparative public administration given at Cambridge, but can only refer to typical arguments from the three groups of lectures. After explaining the historical development of the centralised system of administration in France from the days of Napoleon, Professor Vaucher argued that whereas in England the present development is to increase centralisation and reduce the powers of local authorities, the reverse tendency could now be seen in French administration, as greater powers are being given to the French localities as a reaction from extreme centralisation.

City Managers

From the point of view of the local government officer, some of Professor Egger's most interesting comments concerned the city manager plan, and the reform of the American public service personnel. Professor Egger described the city manager plan as the typical creation of "American Big Business," and, although the plan is still in its infancy,

Professor Egger argued that within twenty years it is likely to be the most generally adopted system of local administration in America. Professor Egger felt that weaknesses of public servants in America had probably been over-emphasised by English writers, but argued that, after allowing for this, there is much need for improvement, and asserted that he would be most surprised if civil service reform did not take place in America within the next two or three years.

Pre—and Post—1933 Germany

Dr. Goetz traced the development of German local self-government from the days of Freiherr von Stein, whose law of 1808 formed the basis of German local government. In particular, however, he contrasted public administration before 1933 and after 1933, showing how the application of fascist principles had led to changes in German administration. Dr. Goetz argued that the form of public administration was of minor importance so long as it is recognised as having in it the life-blood of the nation.

It was only to be expected that students would disagree with many of the things said by lecturers both at Aberystwyth and Cambridge. The high quality of the discussions which the lectures provoked was, however, a sound proof of the quality of the lectures and of the educational value of the schools to the members who were privileged to attend.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE

The autumn session of training courses for candidates desiring to enter for the examinations held by the Institute for sanitary inspectors and smoke inspectors, for Associateship (in general hygiene and sanitation), and in sanitary science, will commence on Monday, September 21, 1936.

Particulars of the lecture courses and syllabuses of the examinations are obtainable from the secretary of the Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF RATING & VALUATION OFFICERS

The results of the 1936 professional examinations held by the above association are announced. The candidates numbered 310, and the results were as follows:

Intermediate Examination

| | Number. | Percentage. |
|---------------|---------|-------------|
| Passed | 94 | 48 |
| Failed | 102 | 52 |
| Sat | 196 | 100 |

Final Examination

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Passed | 63 | 55 |
| Failed | 51 | 45 |
| Sat | 114 | 100 |

House Painting

Some Practical Hints

By a Housing Architect.

THE exterior of the house needs brightening up now and again with a coat of paint, and to those who may be contemplating the job for the first time, the following practical hints may be useful.

A light extension ladder, costing about a pound, should be obtained, and this will be found quite manageable single handed for work not exceeding two ordinary storeys in height.

Brushes.—One or two 1 in. and 2 in. brushes, all flat in shape, will be required, and a spare 2 in. for getting the dust out of eaves, gutters, and awkward corners, should be kept in reserve. A putty knife, and a small quantity of putty will also be useful for repairs, where old putty has become loose and crumbly. This work should be done before the painting is started.

Brushes need not be cleaned in turpentine when laid down overnight. Stand them in a jar of water, and they will be found in perfect condition for use in the morning.

Paint.—This should be obtained from a reliable dealer, and a reputable brand chosen; any outlay apparently saved in buying cheap, unknown brands of material will usually be lost in lack of covering quality. For a house of moderate size, half a gallon of the principal colour chosen is a suitable quantity to begin with. This will cost about ten shillings, and further requirements can easily be estimated as the work proceeds. Decide upon one colour for the woodwork if possible—or two colours at most—and avoid blues and other fancy colours, which seldom "weather" so well as the so-called common colours, such as browns and greens. A light tint such as cream will soon become dingy, unless the atmosphere is unusually free from impurities. Ready-mixed paint should be well stirred before use, and not thinned with turpentine unless absolutely necessary, or a loss of gloss will result.

Preparation.—A reasonably clean surface on woodwork can often be obtained by dry brushing down with a stiff brush; in bad cases water must be used, but sand-paper and other abrasive substances produce a dust injurious to health, and should be avoided.

Number of Coats.—An experiment should be made on a small surface to find whether one or more coats are necessary. In many cases, one good "round" coat, as it is called, will be found sufficient. If two coats are needed—and if the property is leasehold, two may be obligatory—the first should be "undercoating" (non-glossy), and the second "finishing." These names will be found printed on the tins.

Order of Work.—It is best to tackle the top of the house first, and work downwards, as dust and dirt arising from cleaning operations are apt to spoil new work if the reverse order is adopted. Normally, the first job will be the iron eaves gutters, which must be thoroughly freed from rubbish, and painted inside as well as out. The top lengths of ventilating and rain-water pipes must be included at this stage, also the bed-room windows.

Nalgo Building Society

Free Service for Members

There is no doubt whatever that the facilities offered to members under the new Free Advertising Service are appreciated, as a further number of inquiries from interested members have been received requesting particulars of the properties advertised in the August issue.

The advertising service is entirely free to members of N.A.L.G.O. who desire to sell properties mortgaged to them by the Nalgo Building Society. All advertisements must be received at Headquarters not later than the 15th of the month.

The Nalgo Building Society offers the best possible terms to members who wish to purchase their homes. A prospectus and full particulars can be obtained from Headquarters or from the Branch Local Correspondent.

The Society is prepared to consider advancing to any member of N.A.L.G.O. who purchases the following properties up to 100 per cent of the value, or the agreed purchase price, whichever be the lower. The calendar monthly cost of the mortgage repayments and rates will be given on application.

Hereunder are shown particulars of further properties for sale.

CHADWELL HEATH (Essex).—Modern freehold terrace house. 3 bed-rooms, 2 reception-rooms, kitchen, bath, etc. Recently redecorated inside. Excellent condition and well built. Garden in good order and well stocked. Reason for disposal—present owner must reside within district administered by authority of employment. Vacant possession. Valued 2 years ago by Nalgo Building Society at £600. Price £550, or near offer.—Apply Box No. HPB10, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

WOODFORD (Essex).—Modern freehold house. 3 bed-rooms, dining and drawing rooms, kitchen, bath-room, work shed, and garage. Nice garden, fruit trees. 5 minutes from Woodford Station, 25 minutes from London. Mortgage by Nalgo Building Society. £750—a bargain.—Apply Box No. HPB11, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

STAPLEFORD (Notts).—Modern detached freehold house, in good situation on the Nottingham-Derby main road, 5 miles from Nottingham, with 7-minute bus service. Large hall, lounge, dining-room, large kitchen, 3 bed-rooms, bath, separate W.Cs. (2), brick garage, and every modern convenience. Price £850, or near offer.—Apply 171, Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Notts.

UPMINSTER (Essex).—Modern semi-detached freehold house. 3 bed-rooms, 2 reception-rooms, tiled bath-room and kitchenette, garden turfed. Few minutes from station. Price £645.—Apply Box No. HPB12, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

GOODMAYES (Essex).—45, Douglas Road, Barley Lane. Corbett-built house, quiet road, overlooking playing fields, and hospital farm at rear, but only 5 mins. from shops, station, trams, etc. 4 bed-rooms, 3 reception-rooms, scullery, bath-room. 2 W.C.'s, several large cupboards. Extra points, gas, electricity. Hot water. Splendid condition. Pleasant garden, crazy paving, large shed. No road charges. Price £610 or near offer. Would let with option to purchase at 29/- per week inclusive.—Apply 43, Western Road, Brentwood, Essex.

TRADITIONAL CUSTOM IS "REFRESHING"

Hundreds of people visited the village of Ringley recently to watch the incoming "lord mayor" take office in a ceremony which is centuries old.

William Pilkington, who has held the office in past years, came forward again for election. True to tradition, he wore a top hat, a soldier's ancient coat and spats, and carried a toasting-fork, on which was a piece of toast.

After his health had been drunk at a public-house he was taken to the canal, where he allowed water to be poured over him and so became entitled to each Saturday of his year of office to a "pint of sixpenny beer" at each public-house where he appears "shaved, wearing a clean shirt, and in an otherwise respectable condition."

I.M.T.A. EXAMINATIONS

The Manchester Education Committee are again offering this session, in the Manchester Municipal High School of Commerce, complete courses of instruction designed especially for students desirous of reading for the intermediate and final examinations of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

The members of the staff in charge of the classes have been carefully selected for their professional knowledge and teaching capacity, and their services are at the disposal of the student, not only to the extent of his class work, but, where-ever possible, by way of advice as to his private study. The times of the classes have been arranged to suit the convenience of the student, and the fees charged are exceptionally low.

The Principal will be pleased to advise intending students between 6 and 8 p.m. on any weekday, except Saturday. A full prospectus may be obtained, free, on application to the Registrar of the School, 103, Princess Street, Manchester.

COMPLETE

the order form at page 602 for a copy of "A Century of MUNICIPAL PROGRESS"

Permanent Sickness Scheme

THE annual general meeting of the Nalگو Provident Society, held at Aberdeen, referred the question of the adoption of a permanent sickness and accident insurance scheme to the Committee of Management for consideration.

The Committee of Management has considered various schemes of this nature, and is prepared to put into operation a scheme on the lines set out below, provided that there is sufficient demand for such a scheme. The Committee of Management is of the opinion that the minimum number of members required before such a scheme can be put into operation must not be less than fifty. Membership will be strictly limited to members of N.A.L.G.O., and those who are interested in this proposed scheme are requested to complete the form hereunder, and pass it on to the local correspondent for dispatch; or post it direct, so that it reaches headquarters not later than October 30, 1936.

Outline of Scheme

The proposed scheme is based upon the experience of similar schemes operated by various insurance companies. The main difference between the proposed scheme and the sickness insurance scheme at present in operation is that in the latter scheme the contract is an annual one, and renewal may be refused by the Committee of Management, whereas under the proposed scheme, the contract cannot be cancelled so long as the insured person pays the premiums and conforms with the conditions of the policy.

Insurance Cover

All forms of sickness and disease (except as may be determined by the Committee of Management) as well as all accidents will be covered in the permanent policy. The weekly compensation or benefit will be payable after the first three months of disability, for the whole duration of the disability, or of the insurance, whichever may be the shorter period. This means that no benefit will be payable during the first three months of disability.

"Total disability" means complete disablement through sickness or accident, so that the member is unable to perform any part whatever of the duties of his own or any other occupation. Confinement to the house is not essential to establish a claim for total disablement.

It is of interest to note that no company will issue a policy with a weekly disability benefit in excess of the proposer's weekly salary or income. In most cases the limit is two-thirds, with a maximum of £25; but it is open to the Committee of Management to determine that there shall be no limit for which a member may insure.

The proposed scheme would commence on January 1, 1938, and it would be governed and administered by the Nalگو Provident Society and the rules of that Society in so far as they affect the scheme should apply in all cases.

Contributions

| Yearly Contribution. | | | Yearly Contribution. | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Age next Birthday. | Age next Birthday. | Age 65. | Age next Birthday. | Age next Birthday. | Age 65. |
| £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| 20 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 36 | 1 |
| 21 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 37 | 1 |
| 22 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 38 | 1 |
| 23 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 39 | 2 |
| 24 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 40 | 2 |
| 25 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 41 | 2 |
| 26 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 42 | 2 |
| 27 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 43 | 2 |
| 28 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 44 | 2 |
| 29 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 45 | 2 |
| 30 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 46 | 2 |
| 31 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 47 | 2 |
| 32 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 48 | 3 |
| 33 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 49 | 3 |
| 34 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 50 | 3 |
| 35 | 1 | 14 | 4 | | |

It might be possible to accept contributions monthly without extra charge.

Benefits

Benefit is payable at the rate of £1 per week after the first three months of total disablement, and thereafter during the remainder of the term of disability up to age 65. The policy comes into force immediately the first contribution is paid.

In order to avoid any possible risk at the commencement of the scheme, only one class of person will be accepted, and that is the person who at the date of making application is in sound health, and in this direction a medical examination will be insisted upon in all cases.

A WISH

I wish I could think of a verse,
I wish I could with pen converse,
I wish I had a brain that worked,
I wish that in its corners lurked
Some little spark to make me write,
Instead of sitting here all night.

PERMANENT SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

*I signify my willingness to
contribute to the above
proposed scheme.*

Name.....

Branch.....

To be received at headquarters by
October 30th, 1936.

The SECRETARY,
NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY,
24, Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

(Postage 1d.)

TO HAVE GOOD NEIGHBOURS—BE ONE

A STORY which comes down to us from pioneer days and which holds much wisdom for us to-day, concerns two pioneer settlers pushing their way into the sparsely settled west. The first pulled up his team in front of a cabin and addressed an elderly man sitting near the door.

"Hey, old timer, what kind of folks are there around these parts?"

"What kind of folks were there where you came from?" countered the old man.

"Why, they were the meanest, crookedest, most unpleasant people you could meet. To tell you the truth, that is why I decided to change."

"Well," drawled the old pioneer, "I reckon you'll find the folks around here just about the same."

A few weeks later another settler came along, asked a similar question, and was answered by the same counter interrogation. He replied briskly:

"Why, the folks round where I came from were the finest you could meet any place, honest, fair, and pleasant people. We just hated to leave, for they were real neighbours."

"Well," answered the local sage, "I reckon you'll find the folks here just about the same."

To a large degree, we get from people just about what we expect from them. To have good neighbours, we must be good neighbours.

—(Civil Service Bulletin of Alberta, July, 1936.)

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

The annual conference and week-end school of the National Association of Juvenile Employment and Welfare Officers' will be held in Devonshire Hall, Leeds, from September 19 to 22 next. The subject to be discussed is "Vocational Guidance," and it will be dealt with from two standpoints—before leaving school, and after leaving school.

Full details of the programme and cost may be obtained from the conference secretary, Mr. H. J. S. Stone, Juvenile Employment Bureau, Education Office, Calverley Street, Leeds.

WAR

One lighted match dropped on this smouldering world,

One discord in this harmony of peoples,
Then, bursting forth from out his iron chains,

To kindle in the heart of every man
A great desire to kill his fellow-men,
A fiery dragon, breathing vengeance,
death,

On every country over which he flies.
The crash of guns like thunder in the skies
Amidst the sickening cries of wounded
men;

The steady drone of 'planes which o'er us
fly

To do their murderous work in other lands.
We do not heed the gentle cries for peace,
We fight on blindly for our country's fame.
At last the dragon captured is once more
Leaving behind him sickness, sorrow,
death.

And it is many years before we see
Peace once again restored upon the throne.

THOUSANDS OF CIVIL SERVICE VACANCIES

The Civil Service Correspondence School offers specialised tuition for the Civil Service examinations **only**. The fees are moderate and include loan of all text-books. **There is a reduction of 20 per cent in fees for members of N.A.L.G.O. and for children of N.A.L.G.O. members.** Deferred payments if desired.

Over 200 Students of the Civil Service Correspondence School succeeded at Service Exams. during 1935-36, and secured Posts.

FORTHCOMING EXAMINATIONS.

Tax Inspectorate and Third Class Officer, Ministry of Labour.—July, 1937. Salary scale of basic grade rising to £530, with promotion prospects. Age limits, 21 and under 24 on September 1st in the year of the examination. Both sexes eligible.

Executive Class.—We are now enrolling students for the Spring, 1937, Examination. Salary scale rising to £530, with good promotion prospects. Age limits, 18 and under 19 on March 1st in the year of the examination. Both sexes eligible.

Officer of Customs and Excise.—Spring, 1937. Salary scale rising to £570 with promotion prospects. Age limits, 19 and under 21 on March 1st in the year of the examination. Men only.

Clerical Classes.—We are now enrolling students for the Spring, 1937, Examination. The Clerical Classes of the Civil Service provide a good career for boys and girls leaving school at the age of 16. For the Spring, 1937, Examination, candidates have to be 16 and under 17 on March 1st, 1937. Hundreds of vacancies.

Typist and Clerk-Typist (16 to 25), Male Assistant Preventive Officer (19 to 21) and numerous other Civil Service entrance examinations are described in our Guide to Civil Service Examinations.

DETACH HERE

Please send me a copy of the Guide to Civil Service Examinations. I am a member of N.A.L.G.O., and am interested in the Examination.

Name

Address

Send in unsealed envelope with 4d. stamp.

CIVIL SERVICE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

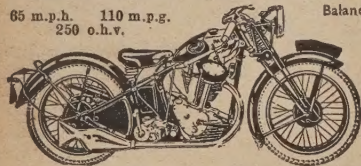
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Benevolent and Orphan
Fund, 24, Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.



Mr. J. E. SIDDALL.

Municipal Trading

What are the advantages and disadvantages of municipal control of trading undertakings? Do you think that an extension of the field is desirable and, if so, on what ground and what precautions, if any, would you then suggest? This was one of the subjects set in the Sir Arthur Robinson essay competition, organised in connection with the summer schools, and the entry submitted by Mr. J. E. Siddall, L.I.M. (Sheffield), D.P.A. (London), assistant solicitor, River Great Ouse Catchment Board, Cambridge, gained the first prize in Class 1. Below we publish some extracts from the winning entry.

THE problem thus enunciated is one which has been troubling economists, politicians, public servants, and the voter, acutely for over a quarter of a century. The riddle is still unsolved. Temporarily, the Great War cut the Gordian knot, but the difficulties of the post war era have caused it to be debated with renewed vigour. The repercussions are social as well as economic, and as the extension or restriction of the municipal control of trading undertakings is, and for some time will be, a matter of practical politics, data, opinions, and statistics are so coloured thereby as to be of very little value. In the last resort, the practical test usually applied is that contained in the Public Health Act, 1875, with regard to the acquisition of a water undertaking by a local authority. "Is private enterprise supplying the commodity already in good quality and at a reasonable price?" If so, in the opinion of the Parliament of that day, there was no apparent reason for interference. What politicians, economists, and social scientists are to-day disputing, is whether that can be the final criterion; there are so many advantages and so many disadvantages to municipal control.

Some theorists maintain that history is quite consistent in the gradual transition of control from the individual to the group and then to public ownership. This is hardly correct. Nor is the test inevitably that a luxury should be supplied by private, and a necessity by public enterprise, not only for the difficulty of definition but for the fact that the public control of an enterprise of the most necessary nature may not be as simple as the control of a purely luxury industry. Thus it is obviously easier for a borough corporation to manage a theatre or dance hall, as is done so profitably by numerous seaside resorts, than it is for a municipal bakery to be a success. The fault may rest with the executive; well-trained amusement managers may be easier to obtain than competent bakers, as local government officers; baking may be an industry best managed in small economic units despite evidence to the contrary; or again may not lend itself to the committee system of management existing in municipal enterprise.

It may be argued, too, that municipal control is already sufficient in its semi-police or inspectorial duties and that ownership or management are unnecessary and

would tend to defeat the public safeguard as one municipal department would not prosecute another and the public would have no redress. These theorists maintain that the Food and Drugs Act, Milk and Dairies Orders, Weights and Measures Acts, gas testing and all the other modern machinery, are, properly administered, sufficient to secure the public from fraud, carelessness and disease, and economic conditions secure that prices will be kept at a consistent level, on the theory that profits attract enterprise until the saturation point is reached. Would this rule still hold good if the enterprise were municipally owned, with a rate fund to make good its mismanagement, with other considerations besides that of mere profit? The eternal quandary of monopoly versus competition is again reached. It has been indisputably proved that given certain conditions at certain times and for the production of some commodities, monopolies, if such there be, are the more economic. The supply of water, gas, electricity, and probably transport, may be cited. In these cases, as in many others, large scale enterprise is essential, and a public body is never as insensible to criticism as the private wielders of a monopoly, who may, under modern conditions, live thousands of miles away from the source of the trouble, and whose interests are only affected by a falling off in revenue or threatened government action. Thus there are excellent grounds for the argument that if a monopoly is economically inevitable, it must be under public control. Is that necessarily municipal control?

"Morton's Fork"

A modern form of "Morton's Fork" is sometimes urged—namely, that if a trading undertaking can be profitably run at all, private enterprise will already be well to the fore and the supply will exceed the demand. If not, why should the burden of a failing industry fall upon either local or national revenues? The first contention is not strictly accurate. Certain vital industries cannot be worked at a profit unless the operator is given greater powers than those possessed by the ordinary citizen. It is not always easy to justify giving such powers to a body whose sole concern is private gain. It is really a form of taxation without representation, unresented by the mass because they are ordinarily unaffected and the taxation is not obvious to them. If such powers are necessary they should be vested in a popular body, accustomed, and with servants trained in, the exercise of similar powers. A body, too, which works in the glare of publicity. There are numerous instances of the successful running of monopoly and quasi monopoly services by municipal authorities at rates favourably comparable with those of any other trading organisation in the

country. If, then, a municipality is permitted to run a transport service within its own administrative area, and possibly adjoining villages, what of the ancillary industries? Is it to build its own buses and trams, make its own spare parts, effect its own repairs, build its own garages, buy its petrol in bulk and sell some of it retail? If thereby it can save its ratepayers money obviously there is powerful argument in its favour, but the local garage proprietors, steel manufacturers, and omnibus builders, liable to be mulcted in rates should the enterprise fail are threatened with a serious blow to their business interests should it succeed. The two views are hard to reconcile.

Abandonment by Private Enterprise

With the second "prong" it is more easy to deal. Numerous instances of private enterprise abandoning undertakings found to be unremunerative can be cited, the maintenance of which has been thrown upon public revenues. The failure of turnpike trusts cast highway burdens upon the parishes. Derelict canals and disused water mills threaten thousands of acres with inundation; disused mine workings are a source of danger, an eyesore, and a consistent cause of subsidence. It is nearly impossible to judge the repercussions caused by the abandonment of such undertakings. It is urged that for the railways to fail, or for a large part of the land of this country to go out of cultivation, would be national disasters, threatening the economic future of the nation in peace and its very existence in the event of war. If such theories be correct, and private enterprise cannot economically carry on such undertakings, some form of public control is necessary. What precise form it would take it is difficult to imagine, particularly in the case of agriculture, the local conditions being too diverse and numerous for centralisation; probably municipal control would be the outcome.

No Real Test

It is only when one considers the very different enterprises successfully controlled by municipalities, that one realises the vast amount of experience there is at hand, and yet such experience is difficult to assess. An enterprise in one borough is a complete success and an unmitigated failure in another, sometimes for no apparent reason. Local authorities successfully run all manner of public utility undertakings, manage theatres, abattoirs, cafes, banks, hotels and spas, hire out deck chairs, houses, and foreshores, tennis courts, baths, and beds. There is no real test. So much depends upon the financial capacity of the municipality, the character of its directorate and the efficiency of its staff. It must be progressive in mind and conserva-

tive in action, prepared to experiment and extend, to cut a loss and yet not hesitate to retrieve a temporary set-back, to be consistent and yet not fear to admit error. The possession of one undertaking should not make it blind to the claims of a rival undertaking prepared to supply a similar service, say, the lighting of the municipally owned houses. Thus it is obvious that some form of control is necessary. It is difficult to imagine one other than the regional authority recruited from the constituent local authorities or the already overburdened central authority. The old devices of public meeting and ballots have been defeated by the growth in size of the towns and the apathy of the electorate. Possibly the only present solution is the regional authority with its power to precept up to a limited extent. The multiplication of such authorities would, from the purely financial standpoint, make for stability in the rates, but also probably for a lack of enterprise.

Social Problem

It will be realised that no attempt has been made to discuss the social problem which accompanies the extension of municipal control. This is a very vexed topic, and still hotly debated. Its adherents assert that by the social benefits alone, the extension is justified. The opponents insist on the inevitability of national bankruptcy. In its favour, it may be said that to increase the number of municipal employees means the end of insanitary conditions both for the workers employed in the undertaking, and where goods are produced, for the general public; and to that extent they benefit; that it means that so many more men and women enjoy a living wage, security of tenure, proper working hours, and the prospects of promotion and pension. It means that the fruits of the enterprise can be distributed at prices in ratio to the means of the recipients, and that over all the average price would be merely the cost price, the manufacturers', merchants' and retailers' profits being thereby avoided. Certain savings in the semi-police services are anticipated, too, as a result of the transfer of control. It is true, also, that in many instances, municipal control has never had a fair chance owing to the unrelenting opposition of private enterprise prepared to defeat the attempt at all costs.

Festina Lente

The extension of municipal control is fraught with many dangers and vast potentialities. It may be capable of infinite good and of great loss. It is essential that the extension should proceed slowly, that the attempts should be diverse and scattered, so that a failure will affect few but the municipality directly concerned, for the simultaneous failure of similar concurrent enterprises might be a national disaster. Such a gradual extension, if extension it proved to be, would give opportunities for amassing data, training executives, correlating experience, and obviating errors. It would prevent sudden hardships being cast upon sections of the community, would, by its safeguards and encouragements, divert effort from obsolete enterprises whilst securing that their abandonment endangered neither the individual nor the public weal.

A Society for Study and Research in Administration.

THE education committee of the Manchester Branch is sponsoring the formation of a society for study and research in administration; its title is to be the Group for Research in Administration and Sociology—G.R.A.S. P.E.P. and the Cambridge Economic Service and such fairly new bodies are facing the problem and study of government in a new way and with a new ideology, and it is to this trend that G.R.A.S. hopes to adapt itself. The aims and activities of the group are these:

OBJECTS

To facilitate the active consideration of questions affecting administration.

To examine the sociological, technical, and general implications of administration, and to emphasise and extend the recognition of their significance.

To co-operate, to this end, with other research and student bodies.

To develop an understanding between the technical and non-University students and the growing number of administrative-trained members of the staffs of the departments of the Corporation.

ACTIVITIES

A. The holding of regular meetings for papers and discussions.

B. The formation of research groups in specific questions as defined from time to time.

C. The presentation of reports and recommendations to appropriate bodies and the submission of letters to appropriate periodicals.

D. The arrangement of visits to, and inspection of, places of administrative interest, with a view to extending the practical knowledge and experience of members in matters of organisation and administration.

E. The formation of a debating team.

While an important part of its policy is to bridge the widening gap which at present exists between technicians and administrators in the local government service (using both terms in their widest sense), its most important work will be the formation of research groups, and the publication of the findings of these groups of people with the "official" outlook. It will be essential for G.R.A.S., of course, from the very fact that it consists entirely of officials, to move very carefully and tactfully, but one of the greatest criticisms to which local government officers lay themselves open is probably that in their effort to steer clear of political "contamination" they are apt to forget that it is only in the complete exposure of facts by the officials that the elected representative can formulate his policy. The first task of the research worker is to make clear the facts of the case; the drawing of his own personal conclusions is essentially a secondary matter. There are in addition many matters of direct concern to the official—all those conditions of service and possibilities of development with which N.A.L.G.O. concerns itself.

G.R.A.S. is a new endeavour of a progressive education committee. The enthusiasm and ability of its small membership should produce valuable results.

ALL MANKIND'S CONCERN

Weekly Allowances

A widow aged 57 years, whose husband died seven years ago, has an invalid son now aged 21 years dependent upon her. The son is unable to work. Since her husband's death, widow has been endeavouring to make a living for herself and son by taking in sewing, but her eyesight is now gradually failing, and she is unable to carry on. The case has recently been brought to the notice of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and an adequate weekly allowance is being made towards the support of the widow and her son.

A widow aged 44 years, whose husband was suffering from Tuberculosis for nearly four years prior to his death, has been left with two daughters aged 15 and 8 years dependent upon her. She has no income whatever, and the Fund is making a substantial weekly allowance towards the maintenance of the widow and her children. Widow has now been offered employment, but was reluctant to accept as it would mean leaving her children to the care of neighbours. The Fund has, therefore, arranged to provide for the younger daughter's maintenance in a suitable school, where she will receive a good education until such time as she is able to find employment and contribute towards the family income.

A member aged 73 years was forced to retire from his employment, and as there was no superannuation scheme in force found that his only income was 10s. per week Old Age Pension for the support of his wife and himself. The small amount of capital which the member had saved was gradually being diminished, especially as a large sum had to be used in connection with the illness of his wife. The Fund is making a generous weekly grant in this case.

Lump Sum Grant

A member aged 42 years has been forced to retire from her office owing to ill-health. Her pension amounts to less than £1 per week, on which she has to support herself and widowed mother. The member's small savings were practically exhausted owing to illness. She was recently admitted to hospital in order to undergo a serious operation, and the Fund undertook to meet all the expenses involved, and has also arranged for a weekly grant to be made to the member and her mother until such time as the applicant is able to find other employment if her health permits.

A member aged 35 years, with a wife and two children aged 4 and 2 years, has fallen into debt owing to considerable illness in the family. A few months ago applicant himself was admitted to hospital, as the result of an accident which incapacitated him for over two months, and then his elder child had to undergo an operation for throat trouble. Member's wife has also been seriously ill for several months. The Fund is making a substantial grant in this case, to help the member to meet the debts which have accrued. The Fund has also agreed to allow the member's wife to be admitted to the Association's Convalescent Home at Matlock for a period of two weeks free of charge.

At Random

By "Hyperion"

Sufficient Unto the Day—

" . . . how infinitely good that Providence is which has provided in its government of mankind such narrow bounds to his sight and knowledge of things; and though he walks in the midst of so many thousand dangers, the sight of which if discovered to him would distract his mind and sink his spirits, he is kept serene and calm by having the events of things hid from his eyes . . ."—*From "The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York, Mariner," by Daniel Defoe.*

The Little Moment

On a famous occasion when newspaper headlines were announcing "Agreement in principle," and diplomats gathered at the Embassy to celebrate one more "constructive step," M. Paul Claudel, the French Ambassador at Washington, remarked:

"In the little moment that remains to us between the crisis and the catastrophe, I may well offer you gentlemen a glass of champagne."

Wars and Rumours of Wars

Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself, have founded empires. But upon what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love, and at this moment millions of men would die for him.

No, I haven't turned Buchmanite, or anything like that. But at the present time, when most of the so-called civilised nations of the world seem to have gone crazy, and the air is full of suspicion and distrust, it would be well if these words of Napoleon were to sink into the minds and hearts of those who are set in authority, and upon whose acts the future of civilisation depends.

Another sentence upon which some of the rulers in Europe might well reflect is Dr. Johnson's pithy remark: "A country governed by a despot is an inverted cone."

It may be some consolation to reflect that the dictators and ministers who make the next war—if there is one—will be as much exposed to the risk of death as the rest of the population, civil or military.

A Familiar Ring

The leading article of an American weekly of 1857 has a familiar ring to modern ears.

"Not for many years—not in the lifetime of most men who read this paper—has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable as at this time. In our own country there is universal prostration and panic . . . in France the political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty; Russia hangs, as usual, like a cloud, dark and silent upon the horizon of Europe; while all the energies, resources, and influences of the British Empire are sorely tried . . ."

"A Long-Suffering Class"

Molière, in answer to the question why in some kingdoms the king was of age at fourteen years, but could not marry until he was eighteen, replied:

"Because it is more difficult to rule a wife than a kingdom."

The same view is held—and expounded at much greater length in a letter which appeared recently in the "Daily Mirror," from "A Man with the Nerve to Grouse."

"Speaking from observation and from experience, I find that every wife expects her husband to be a money-maker. Being anxious to make a bit with Friend Wife, husband rolls up his sleeves and goes to work. He toils early and late, and expects wife to pat him on the back and tell him what a fine provider he is, and how happy she is because she has got such a good man.

"But does that happen? Take another guess at it. Wife moans because she is married to a sordid creature who thinks of nothing but business, who neglects her for his job.

"But if she marries a playboy, who can dance like a gigolo and who knows all the head waiters by their first names, but doesn't know how to make money, is she any better satisfied? Not a bit.

"So there we poor husbands are, between the devil and the deep blue sea. We don't know whether to spend our time working for our wives to keep them soft and easy, or whether we had better sit holding their hands and telling them how beautiful and wonderful they are. We don't even know whether or not to go domestic after we are married . . ."

A Political Meeting in France

"The first step is to elect the chairman. This usually leads to blows and a mêlée. After the chairman is elected everyone is so excited that the audience will not listen to the speakers. It takes some time for them to settle. Several speakers are shouted down and eventually the meeting becomes calm and listens to an ordinary speech. As a rule, if anyone wishes to criticise the party in control of the meeting, he is invited on to the platform. When he arrives he is asked to state his point. Directly he does so, he is knocked off the platform!"

—Monsieur Briand—quoted in Lord Riddell's *Intimate Diary of the Peace Conference and After*.

Awaking Persons

In whatever state the brain may be, it is always wrong to use sudden noises to arouse a sleeper. A gentle or rough shake with the hand is always a safe and better means; or the application of burnt feather or hartshorn to the nostrils may be adopted where the sleep is particularly heavy; but shouting in the ear should never on any account be resorted to, except in cases of coma or apoplexy.

—From an old newspaper.

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

SUPERANNUATION

The County Borough of Dudley has adopted the 1922 Act as from October 1, 1936. The scheme includes 116 officers and 224 servants. The Association in June, 1935, submitted an application to the council to adopt the Act and the divisional secretary met the finance committee in September, when it was agreed to obtain the report of an actuary.

The Wrexham Town Council has adopted the 1922 Act as from July 1, 1936, and the Gravesend Town Council as from October 1, 1936.

SALARIES

The Warwick County Council has approved improved scales of salaries, which represent an increase in all grades for the clerical staff, to come into force on April 1, 1937. The alteration is the more gratifying in that the county council revised the scale without any application from the staff.

Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, and representatives of the relieving officers in the county, attended as a deputation at a meeting of the establishment committee of the Carmarthen County Council on July 15 in support of an application for scales of salaries for relieving officers. The deputation was given a sympathetic reception, and was promised that the points would be carefully considered at a future meeting of the committee, and also that it would be invited to attend the meeting.

GRADING

The Salop County Council, at a meeting on July 25, adopted a scheme of grading and conditions of service for institutional officers.

OFFICE HOURS

The Leicester City Council has approved the granting of Saturday morning off to members who attend the N.A.L.G.O. annual outing.

At a meeting of the Chester City Council on July 22, it was agreed to grant the staff relief from duty on thirteen Saturday mornings in every fifty-two weeks, subject to certain conditions, as set out below: (1) that relief from duty shall be according to a rota to be settled by the head of the department, such rota not to be departed from except with his consent; (2) that relief from duty on any particular day shall be subject to the exigencies of the council's service, as to which the decision of the head of the department shall be final; (3) that no accumulation of relief from duty shall be allowed, provided that the head of a department may consent to an official being relieved from duty on not more than two Saturday mornings in any one calendar month; (4) that where an official's normal half-holiday is other than Saturday afternoon, the head of the department may, subject to the three foregoing paragraphs, make such other arrangements as may be necessary for relief from duty on thirteen half-days in every fifty-two weeks.

RURAL LIFE

Interesting Conference at York

Development of Community Councils and Influence of Parish Councils

MR. A. A. GARRARD, a member of the National Executive Council, attended as the representative of the Association at the twelfth annual conference of the Rural Community Councils, held at St. John's College, York, from July 10 to 13, 1936, under the auspices of the National Council of Social Service.

Approximately 100 delegates, representative of twenty counties, thirty-eight government departments and national voluntary organisations attended the conference. The Archbishop of York delivered an address to the delegates prior to the opening of the conference in which he stressed the fact that the strength of a nation was derived from its rural districts. Conditions of rural life tended to promote physical health and well-being, and to develop wisdom as distinct from cleverness. The essence of English country life was the village and the great feature of the English village was that its life was shared by all sections of the community alike, whereas in great cities neighbourliness was liable to disappear, leaving behind it an awful spiritual detachment. Passing to educational work, the archbishop said that he believed amateur theatricals were of almost priceless value in the village. They helped villagers to overcome their natural awkwardness, and provided an invaluable form of social cohesion. He especially commended village pageants combining the general value of dramatic work with that of local history. Urgent as certain town problems might be, the true focus of national life was to be found in the village, and it was work that aimed at developing the sense of village community life that would prove the most important in the long run.

Community Councils' Progress

At the opening session of the conference, the chairman of the National Council of Social Service (the Warden of All Souls', Professor W. G. S. Adams) presided, and the delegates were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of York (Mr. Councillor W. H. Shaw). Capt. L. F. Ellis, secretary of the National Council, addressed the conference and reviewed the progress made by the Rural Community Council movement since its inception fifteen years ago and looked forward to the day when there would be a Rural Community Council in every county. He thought that the record of work achieved fully justified the hopes of those who had started the movement. In thirteen counties grant-aid was now forthcoming from the local authorities for the development of educational work. Over 4,000 craftsmen had been in regular touch with their Rural Community Councils last year, and forty-one exhibitions of craftsmen's work had been staged during the summer. It was of paramount im-

portance to educate public opinion in the superlative value of the fine craftwork which could still be practised in this age of cheap mass production. He quoted some striking statistics, showing that 350 village halls had been built since the movement started at a total cost of about £300,000, of which £57,000 had been loaned to the villages and repaid without a single default and about £40,000 in grants had been voted by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. This meant that in all over £250,000 had been found by the villages themselves. In spite of the Rural Community Council's record of past achievements, there was still a wide field of new activities waiting to be tackled, especially in helping village boys and girls just after they had left school.

A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture told the conference that he was convinced that the Rural Community Council movement had come to stay. He assured them that the Ministry would leave no stone unturned to help forward the movement until such time as every county should have its own Rural Community Council.

Lieut.-Col. J. M. Mitchell, secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, said that the trustees had every confidence in the movement, and a profound belief in the association of the statutory and voluntary authorities. The trustees had been glad and proud to help in the past; but that period was now over, and it was only consistent with the dignity of the movement that it should face the world with a balanced balance sheet.

Influence of Parish Councils

At the Saturday afternoon session, Dr. R. C. Maxwell gave an illuminating address on the actual and potential influence of parish councils. He mentioned the fact that only about one in ten of the parishes of England had a proper playing-field and expressed the hope that in the coming year many parish councils would provide playing fields as part of the George V. Memorial Scheme, thereby helping to keep children off the roads in these days of increasing danger from vehicular traffic. He even suggested that parish councils might form safety-first committees to look after the welfare of the children in their villages. He reminded councils of their powers to provide a parish hall for public meetings or a local history museum. Such halls were also useful as repositories for local documents; if necessary, the rural district council should be requested to provide a parish chest, which could be used for storing old maps and documents. Dr. Maxwell made the interesting suggestion that parish councils should not only concentrate more on publicity, but also take every occasion

to show themselves in public as a body, for instance, by paying a more or less ceremonial visit once a year to the churches and chapels of their parish or village. He warmly supported the proposal that a parish council advisory service should be established on a county basis under the aegis of the National Council of Social Service.

Part was taken in the ensuing discussion by representatives from the National Association of Local Government Officers, and the Rural District Councils' Association, and from local villages.

Mr. Garrard expressed the view that whilst the tendency in local government was towards larger administrative units, the parish council should be the body representing to the larger administrative bodies the views and desires of the smaller areas and that nothing should be done to destroy that function.

Rural Education

At the educational session on the Sunday afternoon, Mr. Salter Davies, director of education for Kent, who was in the chair, emphasised the importance of not exaggerating the difference between the townsman and the countryman. He thought that the attitude to such things as radio and the cinema should not be one of mere antagonism, but that an attempt should be made to preserve what was worthy of preservation by a reconciliation of town and country interests. Opponents of the recent reorganisation of the elementary educational system claimed that this reorganisation was leading to the urbanisation of the rural child. He was sure that this danger could be successfully overcome, and that ultimately the advantages to the rural child would be far greater than the disadvantages. Similarly, he stressed the importance of giving the urban child a better knowledge and understanding of agriculture. For instance, there were still children in towns who believed that milk came from the dairy, and bread from the baker's shop, and that both dairy and shop were their actual places of origin. They did not connect these everyday necessities with the countryside.

The two speakers at this session were Mr. M. Holland, vice-chairman of the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, and Mr. H. Warrilow, honorary secretary of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council education group. Mr. Holland said that as a result of his experience in Nottinghamshire, he was convinced that rural community councils could give effective help in stimulating education in rural districts. It was important to do everything possible by means of voluntary effort to enrich the lives of village boys and girls, especially those who worked on farms, and to press

the claims of rural districts upon the local education authorities. Mr. Warrilow emphasised the human side of the problem of rural education. Cleverness, as such, counted for little with countrymen who were much more concerned with character than theory.

New Countryside Developments

The speaker at the final session on the Sunday was Mr. L. Shoeten Sack, assistant secretary of the National Council of Social Service. He referred to the fact that fifteen years after the foundation of the first rural community council in Oxfordshire, the Treasury had decided to recognise the movement by grant-aiding the establishment of six new councils during the next three years. While the main purpose of a rural community council was to bring together statutory authorities and voluntary organisations, he hoped that rural community councils would not forget to use their constituent members in such a way as to draw out from them the particular talents and services needed for new developments in the countryside. It would greatly assist confidence in the movement, if rural community councils made certain that they had associated with them a worker who was really in close touch with the farmers, and if they maintained contact, not only with their county council, but also with other local authorities, such as the rural district councils or parish councils. He looked forward to further developments in connection with youth work, physical recreation, health, and personal service, but thought it would be a mistake if rural community councils attempted to take up town work until the much more difficult rural problem had been satisfactorily dealt with. Once this had been satisfactorily done, however, it would seem artificial to draw too rigid a line between rural districts and urban districts, villages, and small towns; the service offered by a rural community council ought really to be available throughout the whole area in which the county council worked.

Valuable Co-operation

Mr. Garrard's impression of the conference is that the movement is very much alive, and that the co-operation between the statutory bodies and the voluntary organisations in social service is extremely valuable. A well known social worker in the movement expressed the view that the average local government officer is a good friend to the movement, and a real social service worker. One indication of the esteem in which local government officers are held by the movement was given at the inaugural dinner of the conference, when Mr. Garrard, as representative of N.A.L.G.O., was asked to sit at the same table at which his Grace, the Archbishop of York, was seated.

(Continued from next column.)

city would require streets, sewers, water systems, schools, fire protection, garbage collection, and so on—if it is to remain a city. The costs of these services we should properly consider the costs of city life, for the only way they can be avoided is by a return to an agricultural or even a pastoral civilisation.—("Public Works Engineers' News Letter.")

Foreign News

Culled from Overseas Sources

What are Police for, Anyway?

IT is council meeting night. After some three hours of considerable pulling and hauling on relatively unimportant matters, Councilman B, stalwart champion of the downtrodden labour class, addresses the city manager.

COUNCILMAN B (rather vehemently): "I should like to ask the city manager why the police department has not eliminated slot machines from local taverns, as ordered by the council some time ago."

MANAGER: "As far as I know, Mr. B, there is not a single slot machine operating in the city. The police chief has so reported."

COUNCILMAN B: "I beg to differ with you. I saw one with my own eyes this afternoon, and I know it was in operation, because I stuck two nickels into it."

MANAGER: "May I ask if any report was made to us regarding this machine? Where is it located?"

COUNCILMAN B: "I'm not saying. Let your police department find it. That's what we have a police department for."

NOTE.—Subsequent investigation revealed that Councilman B, a carpenter, had himself some months previously remodelled the tavern premises where the slot machine in question was operating, and had even constructed the hideaway shelf in the rear of the premises where the machine was found to be cleverly concealed! This manager wonders if he may be pardoned for breathing an occasional sentimental and emphatic "Damn!" as he ponders his council problem.—A City Manager.—("Public Management," July, 1936.)

Swedish Federation of Local Government Employees

AT a constituent congress held in Stockholm, June 21, 1936, a Swedish Federation of Local Government Employees (Sveriges Kommunal-tjänstemannaförbund), with an initial membership of 8,500, was formed by the amalgamation of an existing federation with the local organisations of municipal employees in Stockholm and Göteborg.—("Industrial and Labour Information," July 13, 1936.)

Peace Alone Not Enough

SOMETIMES we fail to realise that the government of the average city, during the past few generations, has changed from a policing agency to a service agency. It was not so very long ago that the primary emphasis in local government affairs was on the maintenance of law and order. But . . . the assurance of orderliness is no longer the main responsibility of the community's governing agency; urban life in 1936 cannot thrive on peace alone.

Services, an ever-expanding list in ever-expanding degree, are called for—services that are indispensable to urban life even though government as such were to be abolished altogether. Even an anarchical

(Continued in previous column.)

On The Turntable

A record made at Aldershot, during an actual performance of the 1936 Tattoo, has made history. With three other discs it shares an important place in the "His Master's Voice" gramophone record supplement for August. The record is unique, for it has faithfully reproduced the roar of an aeroplane which passed over the arena while the Massed Bands of the Aldershot and Eastern Commands, conducted by Leslie Seymour, were recording, "The Lost Chord." (Sullivan.)

This remarkable recording of "The Lost Chord" is perhaps, only equalled by "With Honour Crowned"—Processional March (Ketelbey), which the bands render with considerable realism.—H.M.V. C2843.

H.M.V. has secured permission to record, exclusively, a series of records made from the actual Walt Disney—Mickey Mouse sound films and the first of these is "Who Killed Cock Robin?" This musical cocktail of wit and nonsense, skilfully blended by Disney, cannot fail to impress.—H.M.V. BD358.

Harry S. Pepper, the versatile composer-pianist, wrote "The Shepherd Boy's Song" which Peter Dawson sings, with "A Song for You and Me" (Rizzi) on H.M.V. B8456.

Yehudi Menuhin, the young violin virtuoso, contributes two fascinating melodies, "Kreisler," "Tambourin Chinois," and "Schön Rosmarin," and the delicacy of his playing explains why this disc has been made the "Record of the Month."—H.M.V. DA1489.

When Rossini wrote a sort of musical menu, he little dreamed that it would one day be lifted to form the accompaniment to one of the most delightful of ballets.

"La Boutique Fantasque" is a ballet in one act, for which Respighi most artfully arranged some of Rossini's half-forgotten music. It is a charming work, enhanced by spectacular dancing scenes and beautiful melodies. This recording gives a vivid impression of the ballet, the first performance of which was given at the Alhambra, London, in June, 1919. At that performance, Léonide Massine, who was responsible for the Choregraphy, partnered Lopokova in the Can-Can. Other famous dancers, many of whom are still delighting audiences at Covent Garden, or the Alhambra, included Nemtchinova as one of the four daughters, Woizikovsky as a Tarantella Dancer, and Tchernicheva as the Queen of Clubs.—H.M.V. C2846-8.

Another ballet is represented by Liadov's orchestral arrangement of "The Enchanted Lake," which originally was entitled "Morceau de Ballet," Op. 52, and took the form of a series of short studies for piano. These works were immensely popular, and Liadov then arranged them for ballet. "The Enchanted Lake" is delightful music, particularly representative of the composer, and is played by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Koussevitzky.—H.M.V. DB 2806.

From Our Legal Department

Can a Relieving Officer Work Overtime?

The definition of "salary" in Section 3 of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, excludes from the operation of the Act payments in respect of overtime. The question of what constitutes overtime recently arose in a case of no little importance concerning a relieving officer. The relieving officer was a transferred officer under the Local Government Act, 1929, who had elected to become subject to the Act of 1922, and the point at issue between him and his local authority was whether certain payments he received for extra services rendered in connection with the administration of transitional payments under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ranked as salary in calculating the annual average of his salary for his last five years under the Act of 1922.

Under the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order 1931 (S.R.O. 1931/853) there was constituted a scheme for the purpose of making certain payments styled Transitional Payments to persons aged 18 years or over, who had lost or exhausted their right to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. This scheme, the detailed working of which was implemented by the Unemployment Insurance (Transitional Payments) Regulations 1931 (S.R.O. 1931/875) came into operation on November 12, 1931.

The administration of the scheme of transitional payments devolved in large measure upon the officers of public assistance committees. An applicant's needs had to be assessed on the same basis as if he were an unemployed able-bodied person making a claim for public assistance but as if such assistance could only be granted in money and the same inquiries had to be made as in ordinary cases of public assistance. These duties could therefore be conveniently linked up with the duties already performed by relieving officers.

The relieving officer in the case in question received during each of the years from 1932 to 1935 certain additional payments for the extra services he rendered. In approving payment of these sums the local authority resolved that for the purposes of the Act of 1922 they should be defined as payments in respect of overtime. The officer was due to retire in April, 1936, on reaching the age of 65 years, and in June, 1935, he consulted the Association as to whether he could have these payments taken into account for the purpose of calculating his annual average salary for superannuation purposes. He was advised that the payments formed part of his salary within the meaning of the Act, and that he should tender contributions at the appropriate rate on the sums he had received. Tender of contributions was

What is overtime? Can payments made to a relieving officer for extra services rendered in connection with the administration of transitional payments rank as salary for superannuation purposes? These are the questions which were recently put to the Legal Department and which are here answered. A station engineer was glad he was a member of N.A.L.G.O., especially when he lost his employment under the "grid scheme." In column 3 the Legal Department tells how his compensation was fixed.

refused by the local authority, and the Association then took up his case with the local authority.

To avoid the trouble and expense of an arbitration, the local authority agreed to the suggestion put forward by the Association that a joint case in agreed terms should be put up to counsel, who should be asked to advise whether the payments constituted salary, on the understanding that both parties were to abide by the opinion expressed by counsel.

On behalf of the relieving officer it was contended that owing to the nature and character of his duties, a relieving officer could never be said to work overtime. He was liable to be called upon to perform his duties at any time during the day or night. Merely to impose upon an officer duties which naturally increased the number of hours during which he normally worked did not necessarily mean that those additional duties were being performed in overtime. The relieving officer had no option of refusing to perform the extra duties imposed on him in connection with transitional payments. Those duties were engrafted on to his ordinary duties as a relieving officer, and any payments which he might receive for performing those duties were made to him qua relieving officer. It was not competent for the local authority to define those payments as overtime; they represented payments for statutory duties, and any attempt to take them outside the scope of the Act, in view of the decision in the recent case of *Powell v. Sheffield Corporation* (41.T.L.R. 478), was *ultra vires*.

The local authority contended on the other hand that the payments were made in respect of overtime, and should therefore be excluded in calculating any allowance under the Act of 1922. It relied on the fact that the Ministry of Labour, in sanctioning the payment of these sums, required to be informed of the appropriate number of extra hours of work which the officers concerned had been required to perform as a result of the inauguration of the transitional payments scheme. It agreed that a relieving officer had no fixed hours of duty, but they contended that the extra periods during which the officer worked were properly designated as overtime.

Counsel was of opinion that the various payments constituted part of the officer's salary within the meaning of the Act of 1922. Contributions should have been deducted therefrom, and they should be taken into account in calculating his superannuation allowance. The attempt to define those sums for the purpose of the Act of 1922 as payments for overtime was quite ineffective. He went on to make certain observations on what constituted overtime, which, though not authoritative in the sense that they have the same weight as a decision of the Courts, are of considerable interest. "In my opinion,"

he said, "the payments were not payments for overtime. No doubt they were payments for additional work or additional duties, but an additional amount of work or additional duties may be ordinary grounds for granting an increase of salary. 'Overtime,' in my opinion, can only exist where 'time' of work is first fixed, whether by agreement or custom, and in the case of a relieving officer it is doubtful if the council could, in view of Clause 167 of the Public Assistance Order, 1930 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1930, No. 185), fix the hours of employment of a relieving officer. Certainly the council has never attempted to fix them. Unless the payments were in fact payments for overtime, no resolution by the council that the payments should be treated as payments for overtime, and no agreement between the claimant and the council that the payments should be treated as payments for overtime could have any effect (See *Powell v. Sheffield Corporation*)."

Compensation

A station engineer in the electricity undertaking operated by a local authority lost his employment owing to the closure of the generating station under the "grid scheme." He consulted the Association, and his compensation claim was prepared and submitted to the referee appointed by the Ministry of Labour under the Electricity Supply Acts. As the local authority admitted liability the sole question to be determined by the referee was the amount of the compensation to be awarded.

The Fourth Schedule to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, provides that in the case of an officer employed on an annual salary the compensation shall be based on, but shall not exceed, the amount which would have been payable to a person on abolition of office under the Acts and Rules relating to the Civil Service in force at the date of the passing of the Local Government Act, 1888. At the hearing the referee ruled that he had no power to give an annual allowance to the claimant, and he therefore proposed to award any compensation to which he might find the claimant entitled in a lump sum. It was then contended by the Association that, in view of the provisions of the Fourth Schedule to the Act of 1926 above referred to, the claimant's compensation should first be assessed on the basis of an annual allowance at the full rate (with added years) of 40/60ths of his average annual loss in accordance with the Treasury practice, and the resultant annual allowance should be commuted for a lump sum payment under the Treasury scale for the commutation of pensions at the figure appropriate to the claimant's age. On this basis his compensation would amount to £2,400. The referee accepted this contention and awarded the claimant compensation in that figure. This was the maximum amount which he could have received.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:

24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organization," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHItchall 9351 (6 lines).

Telegrams: Natassoc Parl, London.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

July 22

Circular No. 53/1936/Log.

(To each local correspondent of Logomia.)

Enclosing details of the new motor hire-purchase scheme.

July 30

Circular No. 52/Approved/1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning those members of the Approved Society who are not members of the parent Association.

Circular No. 54/1936/Log.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning the motor hire-purchase scheme—introduction fee.

Circular No. 55/1936/Log.

(To each branch secretary.)

Giving particulars of the scheme of insurance against personal accident.

Circular No. 56/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Requesting that Headquarters be informed of subscriptions made to the King George V Memorial Fund.

Circular No. 57/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing a copy of the statement setting out the policy of the Association with regard to affiliation with the T.U.C., and stating that further copies of the statement may be obtained.

Circular No. 58/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Stating that copies of a report on the collection, payment, and recording of subscriptions is being forwarded to each branch and requesting the observations of branch executive committees thereon.

Circular No. 59/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Asking whether the branch wishes local action to be taken as regards implementing the decision of the Annual Conference, 1936, relating to the employment of married women.

Circular No. 60/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning invitations to the Association to

hold its Annual Conference in any particular town.

Circular No. 61/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Asking whether the branch wishes any local action to be taken as regards implementing the decision of the Annual Conference, 1936, relating to evening meetings of councils and committees.

Circular No. 62/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning the compulsory Superannuation Bill and giving information as to the effect of prior adoption of the Superannuation Act of 1922.

Circular No. 63/Gen./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing a copy of the amended rules and constitution of the Association, and stating that further copies are available.

Circular No. 64/B.O./1936.

(To each branch secretary.)

Regarding eligibility for assistance from the B. and O. Fund on retirement from the local government service.

Circular No. 65/1936/S.A.

(To each branch secretary.)

Regarding Boots' Booklovers' Library.

August 12.

Circular No. 66/1936/Log.

(To each local correspondent of Logomia.)

(a) Stating that a cheque in respect of introduction fees for life assurance and/or fire and householder's comprehensive insurances will shortly be sent to the branch honorary treasurer, and enclosing statements giving details of the manner in which the amount has been made up.

(b) Expressing the thanks of the Board of Management for the assistance rendered in connexion with the work of the life and fire departments.

N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAY GUIDE RECOMMENDED ADDRESSES

Will all members who have spent their holiday at a resort at home or abroad in an establishment which they can recommend as worthy of inclusion in the next edition of the N.A.L.G.O. Official Holiday Guide, please send the name of the proprietor and address of the establishment to headquarters as soon as possible.

ORDER FORM

"A CENTURY OF MUNICIPAL PROGRESS"

Price £1 1 0

To the GENERAL SECRETARY, N.A.L.G.O.,
24 Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Please send me.....copy(ies) of "A Century of Municipal Progress, 1835—1935" for which I am enclosing a remittance for £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: March, 46; April, 44; May, 44; June, 44; July, 46; August, 46. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follows:

| | June | July | Aug. |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Food | 26 | 29 | 29 |
| Rent | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Clothing | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Fuel and Light | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Other Items ... | 70 | 70 | 70 |

IMPORTANT DATE

September 29.—Renewal premiums due on N.A.L.G.O. Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies.

SUMMER SPORTS— WEAR

SWEATERS
SLIP-ONS
BATHING-
COSTUMES
CRICKET CAPS
ART. SILK
SQUARES TIES
etc.

IN NALGO COLOURS

Write for coloured price list to:

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT,
NALGO, 24, Abingdon Street, S.W.1

MAKE A NOTE

The date: October 30 and 31, 1936.

The place:

King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road (near Tottenham Court Road Station).

The event: The SPORT OF KINGS.

The reason: Because the NALGO (Metropolitan District) Operatic and Dramatic Society is responsible for the production.

SUPPORT YOUR COLLEAGUES.

"... must imperatively be read by every local government officer, high or low, as the indispensable basis of his professional culture"—SIDNEY WEBB.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Advertisement Offices: A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24-26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4, to whom all advertisement communications should be addressed. Replies to Box Nos. must be sent to A. Darby's Advertising Service. Telephones: City 6686 and 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London.

Public Service Prestige

NEARLY a month ago the public services were shocked to read the result of the Board of Inquiry appointed to investigate a number of discussions alleged to have taken place between Sir Christopher Bullock, K.C.B., permanent secretary of the Air Ministry, and representatives of Imperial Airways, Ltd. The findings of the Board left no doubt that the discussions had taken place, and that they concerned the possibility of Sir Christopher taking up eventually an important position in the company. The Prime Minister acted promptly and dismissed Sir Christopher Bullock from the service. The story has been told in the press. Most of the daily papers published the report of the Board of Inquiry in full, for which action we who are jealous of the prestige of the public service are thankful.

The whole business is very distasteful, and coming so quickly after the Budget case, it must cause our colleagues in the civil service much concern. They have been badly let down, and the purge was neither too drastic nor a minute too soon. All the evidence points to the fact that Sir Christopher had gifts better suited to business than to public administration. He was a man of undoubted ability, but the prestige of the civil and the local government services rests upon qualities which have no market value in other walks of life. "Public officers," Mr. H. Bradley, late of the Board of Trade, once wrote, "must be prepared to throw away ambition, and embrace, if not poverty, obedience and chastity, a life of conscious submission to the end which administration has in view." The confidence of the public in the central and local public services rests solely upon the belief that the permanent officials have abandoned personal ambition in that narrower sense which is usually associated with business and commerce.

Personal Honour Essential

It is also recognised that the compensations for that loss of material reward which comes with success in other walks of life is a measure of security, prestige, and sometimes "honours." Anyone

who is not prepared to give his best to the community with those limitations of reward should not enter the service.

The honour of the service is not a collective responsibility, but a personal one. A single indiscretion will always revive the cry "they are all alike." We are living in times when suspicion and distrust are rife; when nations are being recast mainly on the pretence that the other fellow cannot be trusted. The stability of the nation depends upon the integrity of the public officer to a far greater degree than we have hitherto been prepared to admit; therefore, every action, every thought, which guides the actions of civil servants and local government officers, is more precious to-day than at any previous time in our history.

We believe the Prime Minister realised that when he decided to dismiss Sir Christopher Bullock, and viewed from that angle the decision is justified.

Public Influence of Policy

Let us turn to the local government service for a moment or two and see whether there is a lesson in this incident. There have been two attempts made recently by popular writers or talkers to throw some doubt upon the integrity of those engaged in local government, and in these instances members of town

councils as well as the officers have come in for their share of criticism. The public play a greater part in the responsibility of local administration than they do in central, and central government departments. The representatives of the public who sit on county and town councils can more easily influence policy than can Members of Parliament influence the civil service.

The report of the departmental committee on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotion of local government officers says "evidence has been submitted to us showing that in some cases persons have obtained appointments under a local authority through influence with a member or with an officer. Such appointments are indefensible . . . We have evidence of several cases in which appointments appear to have been obtained largely on account of some relationship. Patronage of this description is altogether objectionable. Local authorities should do everything in their power to avoid any suspicion of it."

Vox Populi

The full advantages of local government cannot be obtained unless the closest possible interest is displayed by every citizen.

Quite apart from the economy which comes from each one playing his part voluntarily in the complex system of modern urban government, the watchfulness of the citizen can prevent wrong things from being done by the town council.

If the use of party machinery is being overdone, let those who dislike it say so; if appointments are being made without publicly advertising them or on a system which is not "above board," the citizens who believe in public administration being above suspicion should raise their voices.

There is no patronage left in the civil service, and we wish we could say the same about the local government service.

It is not serious in local government, because it does not apply to principal officers, but here and there appointments of a junior character have been made through the personal influence of town councillors, and although this may have had no other motive than that of rendering a kindness, it is, nevertheless, wrong in principle. In some places, it is done under the emotional stress of finding work for unemployed. This is equally wrong. In other places, unadulterated political preferment is the motivating factor. No one can defend that. Taking the service on the whole, these cases are comparatively small, but they are dangerous precedents; they are retrogressive, and public opinion should rise against them in the best interests of pure and confident public administration.

METROPOLITAN

We are indebted to Mr. T. F. Dunning, honorary secretary of the Metropolitan District Sports and Recreation Sub-Committee for the following account of the annual bowling match between the Metropolitan and Southern Districts.

This annual "jamboree" of N.A.L.G.O. bowlers was renewed this year, having for divers reasons (mainly lack of facilities) been deferred in 1935, and Metropolitan took up its routine duty as "hosts" to the Southern District. The Paddington Bowling and Sports Club again kindly loaned a green and the amenities of their splendid pavilion, etc.

"Captain" D. Llewellyn Griffiths (town clerk of Aldershot) brought along five rinks gathered together from Aldershot, Bucks County, Berks County, Southampton, Swindon, Newbury, and Reading Branches, and a team representing at least twelve metropolitan branches secured the battle honours by a few shots. The result was the least-considered item of the day, however. After the game, during which tea was served on the green, the party sat down to an excellent supper in the pavilion. The chairman of the Metropolitan Bowls Sectional Committee (Mr. Percy W. Williams, St. Marylebone) was in the chair, and he extended to the visitors a very cordial welcome, reminding them of the "treatment" received by the Londoners at Reading on the occasion of previous matches, and inviting them to make themselves as much at home here as we did at Reading. "Captain" Griffiths, in responding, referred with his usual enthusiasm to the cordial sporting relationship existing between the southern and metropolitan districts, and stressed the valuable effect on the participants in these games. (He did not specifically say anything of the "after" effects.) Needless to say, he got musical honours—and this might result in an inter-district "choral" competition in the future.

The party were subsequently shown over the club's magnificent indoor pavilion, and then retired to a congenial spot to which there is no bar. Many from distant parts retired quietly while safe (visions of losing driving licences!) but others, including the Reading contingent (probably because, as they protested, they could get home in forty-five and a half minutes) continued their "kind patronage," and at one time the steward feared it would be "Feeks" before he retired to rest.

Next year's match is eagerly looked forward to by the Metropolitan.

NORTH-EASTERN

The final results of the North-Eastern District Sports Competitions are:

Cricket

Durham County v. Newcastle. Winners: Durham County

District Committees

Tennis

Ladies' Doubles.—Winners: Miss Gray and Miss King.

Gents' Singles.—Winner: R. B. Oates.

Gents' Doubles.—Winners: N. Pace and A. Rogers.

Bowls

Singles.—G. Machin v. W. Britton. Winner: Machin.

Rink.—Brown, Francombe, and Rontree v. Foord, Ridley, and Major. Winners: Brown, Francombe, and Rontree.

Golf

Winner: T. Alder, Sunderland.

EAST MIDLAND

The East Midland District Committee met at the Midland Agricultural College at Sutton Bonnington, on Saturday,



Metropolitan and Southern Districts' Bowling Teams

July 25, 1936. In addition to the president (Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey, clerk to the Leicestershire County Council) there were nearly fifty delegates present.

The main business transacted was to receive the report of the three delegates on the National Executive Council, Mr. L. E. Rumsey, Mr. J. Chaston, and Mr. A. B. Day.

The Chairman submitted his report on the proceedings of the annual conference held at Aberdeen, and his branch was congratulated on having 100 per cent membership of the B. and O. Fund.

Progress Report

The report of the divisional secretary recorded the formation of a branch by the Kesteven County Council officers, as from September 1 and that membership in the district had increased substantially as compared with the previous year, both as regards the association and its ancillaries. In a reference to the B. and O. Fund, the report pointed out that while last year the average contribution from the membership of the Association was 3s. 8d. per member, in the East Midlands the average was 3s. 3d. per member; grants made

averaged 2s. 3d. per member nationally, and 2s. 5d. per head in the East Midlands. Four local authorities—Soke of Peterborough C.C., Loughborough, Scunthorpe and Frodingham U.D.C., and South Kesteven R.D.C.—were reported as having recently adopted the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922; and a number of authorities in Nottinghamshire had been approached to consider the adoption of the Act. Details of a new scale of salaries put into operation by the Leicestershire County Council were given.

The report referred to the satisfactory result of protracted negotiations which the divisional secretary had had with the Lincoln City Council on the subject of salaries.

The divisional secretary reported on the case of an officer whose compensation allowance had been, the Association contended, wrongfully suspended by an authority in the area. The compensating authority agreed to the submission of a joint letter to the Minister of Health, who expressed an opinion in favour of the officer.

It was reported that the usual compensation provisions had been inserted in the County of Leicester (Groby and Newtown Linford Parishes) Confirmation Order, 1936, and in the County of Leicester (Anstey and Glenfields Parishes) Confirmation Order, 1936; that £27,321 was advanced by the Building Society to members in the district during 1935; and that in the East Midlands one officer had been successful in the final, and five officers in the intermediate examination of the National Association of Local Government Officers, in May, 1936.

A resolution of appreciation of the very valuable services rendered by the divisional secretary, Mr. J. E. N. Davis, in connection with the application of the Lincoln Branch in regard to the scale of salaries, was passed.

Social Events

At the conclusion of the business the delegates were entertained to tea at the college by the president.

An official welcome was extended to the delegates by Lord Belper, J.P., D.L., the chairman of the Governing Body and also Alderman E. E. Wells (Leicestershire). Supporting these gentlemen were Aldermen G. E. Taylor (Notts) and the Principal of the college (Mr. Robinson).

The delegates were afterwards conducted on a tour of the college, including the dairy, farm, greenhouses, poultry section, cheese and butter departments, and were delighted with all that the guides had to show them. The visit was so much appreciated that it is hoped that on some future occasion a further visit to the college may take place.

ORDER form on page
602 for the
BOOK OF THE CENTURY

General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Travel of Various Types

Miss Freya M. Stark in "The Southern Gates of Arabia" (Murray, 16s.) gives a pleasing account of her lone journey across the Hadbaramaut region of Southern Arabia. The writing is graceful and as leisurely as her journey, and there are delightful, intimate pictures of the people—high and low—she met in her travels. — Professor Starkie still continues to fiddle his way in gipsy fashion through various countries, and in "Don Gipsy" (Murray, 10s. 6d.) recounts his adventures with the inevitable fiddle in Barbary, Andalusia, and La Mancha. He has many interesting experiences, and meets many quaint characters: his superhiking is of the kind to be envied. — Some of my readers will be acquainted with Mr. Peter Fleming's records of his travels. Ostensibly representing the press, he made his way from Peking through the Himalaya Passes to Kashgar, accompanied by a Swiss girl, also travelling as a press agent. They had many escapes from danger, and suffered considerable hardship. The story of their journey is told in "News from Tartary" (Cape, 12s. 6d.). — "The Great Trek," by Max Miller (Lovat Dickson, 7s. 6d.) is the epic story of the great five-year drive of a herd of three thousand reindeer through Northern Canada to save the Eskimos from starvation. The contract was made with the Canadian Government in 1929, and the book is a fine record of skill and endurance on the part of the men charged with the transport. — Father Hubbard meets with some strange experiences in his explorations in North-Eastern Alaska. His title, "Cradle of the Storms" (Harrop, 8s. 6d.) is selected from the fact that the warm waters of the Pacific meeting the icy Behring Sea set up violent storms. His description of the phantom forest—the skeleton trees denuded of foliage by a shower of sulphuric acid from a volcano, is weird. — Those in search of adventures, hairbreadth escapes, and the like, will find them in "Stormy Petrel," by Charles Kennett (Hurst and Blackett, 10s. 6d.), and if they are not satisfied—even satiated—they are hard to please. Many of the escapades are concerned with nefarious trafficking by air. — The Amnyi Machin, the mystery mountain in North-Eastern Tibet, reported to be higher than Everest, was the object of Mr. H. Forman's quest, as recorded in "Through Forbidden Tibet" (Jarrolds, 18s.). He did not realise his ambition, but he met with many strange adventures. Accompanied by one Sherap, "the wise one," he interviewed many human Buddhas, met many strange characters, and had numerous hairbreadth escapes.

Biography and History

Few modern biographies of politicians have more interest than Lord Parmoor's autobiography, "A Retrospect" (Heinemann, 15s.). A considerable portion of the book deals with the War period and Parmoor's leadership as head of the

British Delegation in the work of making the Protocol at Geneva. — Messrs. Newnes have produced a useful little series in "Private Lives Library" (2s. 6d.). The volume on Stalin, by Isaac Don Levine, is a clear and concise account of the Russian despot's activities without the flamboyant trappings so frequently noticeable in books relating to recent affairs in that country. A cheap reprint of a book published in 1931. — "Suspect" (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.) is the title of a rather unusual pre-war book. The author, Allan Strawbridge, an artist, is sketching in Luxembourg at the outbreak of war, and is arrested as a spy and spends the War period in confinement in Germany. — The identity of the authoress of "Anonymous, 1871-1935" (Murray, 12s. 6d.) will be distinguishable only to her intimate friends. Partly a contrast between mid-Victorian and modern ideas and ideals, it is a fine piece of critical writing by one well versed in the art. Many well-known artists in the literary, musical and dramatic world come under the review of a clear thinker and cultured writer.

Lighter Material

"Racecourse Swindles," by Fane (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.), is an entertaining illustration of the old saying that a fool and his money are soon parted. The ways of tipsters and unscrupulous bookies on many racecourses are expounded. — Edinburgh at the close of the sixteenth century, Bothwell and his influence, form the basis of Janet Smith's historical novel, "Barbara Napier" (Murray Bros., 7s. 6d.). Well written, the book illustrates the influence of witchcraft at that period. — In "They Walk in the City," J. B. Priestley (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.) gives us bulk, as in "Good Companions." Briefly, it is the story of the love of a young couple, who meet first in Yorkshire, part, and meet again in London. It is in the latter that the chief movement takes place. There is a good deal concerning social life in the City, but the descriptive parts are Priestley at his best.

"WAYS AND MEANS"

This book (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 4s. 6d.) consists of a series of broadcast talks by Mr. Geoffrey Crowther on the national income; starting with an account of the way in which that income is produced; the occupations and distribution of the world's population; the export trade and its significance; going on to a discussion on the composition and distribution of the income, goods produced, and division between classes; and concluding with a survey of the money system.

It gives a lucid account of these matters, and serves at once the purpose of explaining the elementary facts of the economic structure of Great Britain and of suggesting by well-chosen and vivid illustrations those elementary economic principles about which there is no dispute among experts.

Some Other Books

Health Reports

Some interesting information and statistics are given in the annual report on the health of the County Borough of Darlington for the year 1935, presented by Dr. G. A. Dawson, medical officer of health. The estimated population has increased by roughly 750, and this is accounted for mainly by immigration of families rather than by the natural excess of births over deaths, a figure which numbered 201. The birth rate is up slightly from 14.6 to 14.8, and the death rate has increased from 10.8 to 12.2. The number of people in receipt of relief also increased during the past year from 1,809 to 1,927. One very interesting feature of this report is the tabular scheme showing the medical and health services available within the area of the county borough. I think this scheme could well be followed in many other towns.

The report prepared by Dr. G. K. Bowes on the health of Bedford also shows an increase in the birth rate from 12.6 per thousand to 12.9, but this increase is accounted for by the fact that 1935 was the first complete year for which rates were calculated for the extended borough. The death rate, however, was lower, dropping from 11.9 per thousand to 11 per thousand. A curious question is raised in Dr. Bowes' report as school medical officer for the borough. He says, "Can we permanently and ultimately improve on Nature's methods which, if wasteful, are efficient? We may, it is true, expel Nature for a time with the pitchfork of our social services, but it seems that the question, after all, must be not whether, but when she will return." One might well ask whether the doctor prefers curative to preventive medicine.

Library Progress

The report of the chief librarian of Liverpool shows a gratifying increase of over 100,000 volumes in the issue of books during the past year, as compared with the previous year. The increased demands for works of non-fiction is a noteworthy feature of the year's activities, and this it attributed, in part at least, to the success of the new catalogue of non-fiction which was published in October, 1935. Unfortunately, the report does not show what kind of non-fiction work accounted for this very large increase. At Coventry there was a total increase of over 26,000 issues for the year ending March, 1936, as compared with the previous year. It is rather curious that there were decreases in the issues of books relating to natural science, music, and of books from the junior and school libraries. Of the increased issues, apart from adult fiction, nearly 9,000 more books were issued from the art, technology, and recreations group, whilst history, travel, and biographies accounted for 4,000 more issues. These figures seem to indicate that people are awakening to the importance of leisure.

The report of the Manchester Markets Committee for the year ending March 31, 1936, shows rather surprisingly, an increase in the amount of condemned meat. Last year this amounted to 601½ tons, whilst for the year under review it amounted to 703½ tons. Condemned fish decreased from 110½ tons to 100½ tons, and among the other food which was condemned as being unwholesome, game and eggs showed an increase during 1935-36. One would be interested to know what are the causes of these increases, and what social significance lies behind them, but unfortunately the report is silent on these points.

Camaraderie

NEW BRANCH

The officers of the Kesteven County Council have decided to form a branch as from September 1. The clerk of the county council, Mr. W. T. Phipps, has been invited to become president of the branch; Mr. H. Langrish has been appointed honorary secretary, and Mr. W. C. Elliott, county accountant, honorary treasurer.

PRESENTATIONS

An interesting ceremony recently took place in the city treasurer's department, Worcester, when one of the council's rate collectors, Mr. T. H. Griffiths, O.B.E., was the recipient of a Worcester Porcelain morning tea-service, from the city treasurer and his staff, to mark the occasion of his having completed fifty years in the service of the corporation, the last fourteen as a rate collector.

The city treasurer referred to Mr. Griffiths' somewhat remarkable record of continuous service with one local authority, which was also voiced by the chairman of the finance committee (Mr. G. W. Peck).

The treasurer also handed to him a copy of the resolution of the city council's congratulations on having completed fifty years' service under that body.

At a special meeting of the Lancashire County Branch held on July 24, tribute was paid to Mr. J. E. Gee, on the occasion of his retirement from the service.

Mr. M. J. Hellier, chairman of the branch, presented to Mr. Gee an oak bookcase, and also asked him to accept a handbag for Mrs. Gee.

For the past twenty-eight years, Mr. Hellier said, Mr. Gee had been a devoted officer of the branch of which he was one of the founders and the first honorary secretary. He was also chairman of the executive committee for nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gee were also the recipients of a clock and an easy-chair, the gifts of the staff of the public health department of which Mr. Gee had been principal clerk for more than forty years.

In reply Mr. Gee expressed thanks for the gifts, and the kindly thought in associating his wife with the presentations.

A pleasing ceremony was witnessed in the council chamber of the Witham Urban District Council on Saturday, August 8, when a presentation of a silver cigarette-case was made to Mr. Allan D. Stockdale, committee and general clerk to that authority, who was bidding farewell to take up the appointment of clerk and chief financial officer to the West Mersea Urban District Council.

All of the staff are members of N.A.L.G.O., and they attended in full force to wish this popular officer adieu and happy "Nalgoing."

The presentation was made by Miss E. Bright, a member of the clerk's department, and in the course of her remarks she stated that she had spent a harmonious time with Mr. Stockdale and was indeed sorry to lose his happy smile and pleasant outlook.

Mr. G. Ogden (surveyor) and other members associated themselves with her remarks.

Mr. Stockdale, in accepting the cigarette-case, responded, and stated that he had always thoroughly enjoyed himself working with the Witham staff, and would always remember with pride the days spent at Witham.

RETIREMENTS

The president of the City of Worcester Branch on behalf of all the members, sent a message of good wishes to Messrs. Haynes, James, Powell, and Stanton, on the occasion of their retirement from the local government service. Mr. Powell held the record for long service with the corporation with over fifty-two years' service. He was a keen member

of the Association, and had served on the executive committee for over ten years.

SPORT

Rain interfered with the finals of the Preston Branch tennis handicaps at Dick Kerr United Club, Ashton, on Friday night, July 17. In spite of the bad weather a fair crowd attended, including the president (Mr. H. E. Nutter, town clerk) and Mrs. Nutter. The ladies singles final was completed, the result being: Miss A. Gardner (library) (—15), beat Miss A. W. Duckett, (treasurer's) (+15), 6—4, 4—6, 6—1. The men's singles final between Mr. F. Riding (public assistance) (scr.) and Mr. N. Seed (education) (—15), had to be abandoned when the score stood at five games all in the first set. The match will be completed at a later date. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Nutter.

OUTING

The members of the Beverley Branch held its excursion on Sunday, July 26, when 30 members and friends spent a very enjoyable day. The venue was Lake Ulswater. Leaving Beverley at 9.30 a.m. Penrith was reached about 3.15 p.m., where motors were waiting to take the party to Pooley Bridge. Boarding the steamer there, a trip through the 7½ miles of the lake's length brought the party to Glenridding, and tea was taken at the Patterdale Hotel, a short walk from Glenridding. Leaving Patterdale by motor, a picturesque run along the shore of the lake, and Penrith was again reached. Leaving Penrith at 7.0 p.m., Beverley was reached about 1.0 a.m. on Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mr. C. H. Consell, technical assistant, electric supply department, Liverpool, who has been successful in the B.Sc. (Engineering) external examination of the University of London. Mr. Consell is 24 years old, and entered the service of the Liverpool Corporation as a junior clerk.

YOUTH AND PUBLIC WORK

The Bucks County Branch recently organised (through its education sub-committee) two essay competitions on local government.

The competitions were approved by the county education committee, and were taken up with enthusiasm by a large number of schools in the county.

The prize money was put up by the branch, and the standing joint committee of the Council was so interested in the scheme that it very kindly presented twenty copies of Vol. 1 of Bucks Sessions Records covering the period 1678—1694. These have been awarded to the first twenty on the secondary and technical school list.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death of Mr. Michael A. Burke, who before retirement from the service on March 31, 1928, was the superintendent of attendance officers at Cardiff. He had been an active member of the local executive committee and also vice-president of the Cardiff Branch.

(Continued from next column.)

land as regards service conditions at the time of his appointment sixteen years ago, and what they were to-day. He was able to show that through the activities of the Association there has been a vast improvement, particularly as regards salaries and superannuation rights. At the close of his address a number of questions were asked and answered. It was agreed that certain matters calling for attention be taken up by the executive of the branch with a view to making representations to the county council.

Scottish Notes

Whitley Councils

ON Friday, July 31, the representatives of local authorities associations and those of the various unions representing the employees met in Edinburgh. Lord Provost Nimmo of Perth presided, and N.A.L.G.O. was represented by Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, chairman of Scottish District Committee, and Mr. Mortimer, the divisional secretary. Two draft constitutions were submitted—one for the non-trading departments (workmen) and the other for the technical, clerical, and administrative staffs. Both were unanimously approved. The local authority representatives then agreed to recommend these for adoption to their constituent bodies. Mr. Archibald having moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and to Mr. Galbraith, the representative of the Ministry of Labour, the joint meeting terminated. Thereafter, the union representatives met separately to arrange the allocation of seats on the employees' side of the councils. After some discussion it was agreed to adjourn consideration to a future meeting to be held in the first week of September, Mr. Campbell to convene the representatives of the workmen's unions, and Mr. Mortimer those of the staff's. Both meetings, it may be said, were of a friendly nature, which encourages one to hope for good progress in the future.

The Sports Day

Our annual sports day is again to be held at Bridge of Allan. The date is Saturday, September 12. Will they note also that entries must be sent immediately to Mr. S. H. Brodie, Sports Secretary, City Assessor's Office, 40, Cochrane Street, Glasgow, C.1? There are the usual competitions for golf, bowling, and tennis. The golf competitions will be played over Dunblane New Golf Course. There will be a gentlemen's stroke competition, which will consist of two rounds, and a ladies' stroke competition of one round. The bowling competitions will take place at Bridge of Allan, as will also the tennis competition. The tennis will be a mixed doubles American tournament.

The usual trophies and prizes will be awarded. Lunch and tea will be provided at the Allan Water and Spa Hotel at an inclusive charge of 5s. Lunch will also be served at the Royal Hotel for those who find it more convenient to go there. All members of the Association are invited to enter for the competitions, and members can bring their friends with them. We have usually quite a number of visitors, chiefly ladies, who are not taking part in the competitions.

Ayrshire Branch

On Wednesday, July 15, Mr. Mortimer met with the staffs of Ayr County Council. The meeting was held in the County Hall, and Mr. Howie, chief public assistance officer, presided. The meeting was chiefly of a propaganda nature, and to stimulate interest among our members in Ayr. The divisional secretary spoke at considerable length, contrasting the position in Scot-

(Continued in previous column.)



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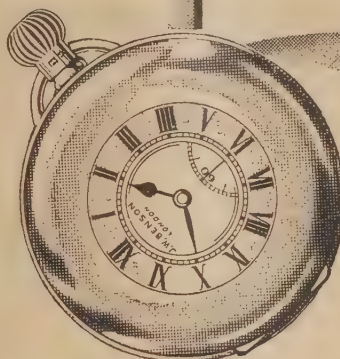
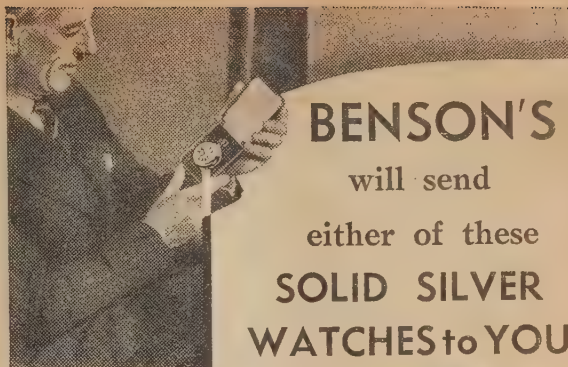
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GEORGE DOLAND

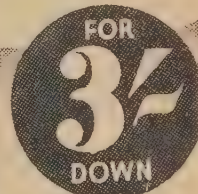
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Mr. J. W. CHARNEY, Dewsbury, to Junior Engineering Assistant, Carlisle City.

Mr. G. COLIN CLEGG, Tynemouth, to Director of Public Cleansing, Ealing.

Mr. GEO. ELLIOTT, Rotherham, to Relieving Officer, Lancashire C.C.

Mr. ALAN GILL, Doncaster, to Junior Accountancy Assistant, East Barnet U.D.C.

Mr. E. L. HULLEY, Sheffield, to Town Planning Assistant, Leicester.

Mr. J. L. HESLOP, Huddersfield, to Architectural Assistant, Dewsbury.

Mr. PARKER OXSPRING, Middlesbrough, to Deputy Director of Education, Staffordshire C.C.

Mr. F. PRIEST, Huddersfield, to Clerk to the Magistrate's Clerk, Brighton.

Mr. ALAN E. REED, Northumberland C.C., to Clerk, Derbyshire C.C.

Miss K. I. RUSSELL, Wombwell, to Health Visitor, Wolverhampton.

Mr. J. SUNDERLAND, Huddersfield, to Clerk, Halifax.

Mr. H. SYKES, Sheffield, to Librarian, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr. ARTHUR USHER, West Hartlepool, to Assistant Solicitor, Wednesbury B.

Mr. J. PATON WATSON, Scarborough, to City Engineer and Surveyor, Plymouth.

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Mr. A. C. NICHOLLS, Acton B.C., to Assistant Solicitor, Surrey C.C.

Mr. A. R. ASHBY, VIEWSLEY and West Drayton U.D.C., to Rating Clerk, Hayes and Harlington U.D.C.

Mr. G. C. CLARK, VIEWSLEY and West Drayton U.D.C., to Assistant Surveyor, Billericay U.D.C.

Mr. R. F. PAYNE, VIEWSLEY and West Drayton U.D.C., to Surveying Assistant, Slough U.D.C.

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Mr. LEWIS C. LONG, Wandsworth M.B.C., to Clerk, Holborn M.B.C. (Engineers' Dept.).

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Mr. T. B. MARSHALL, Bognor Regis, to Jnr. Engineering Assistant, Guildford B.

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Mr. HUTCHINGS, New Forest (Br.), to Asst. Surveyor, Slough.

Mr. W. G. HALL, Poole, to Jnr. Committee Clerk, Ruimsig-Northwood U.D.C.

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Mr. H. S. R. ROGERS, Lincoln, to Solicitor, Cardiff C.B.

Promotions of members of Minehead Branch of the N.A.L.G.O. in the employ of the Minehead Urban District Council:

Mr. W. R. J. BURNELL (present Finance and Rating Clerk) appointed to post of Cashier.

Mr. W. A. F. BALE (present Committee and General Clerk), appointed to post of Assistant Clerk to the Council.

Mr. T. H. SILETT (present Junior Clerk), promoted to assist with Finance duties.



Mr. W. C. WOOD
Divisional Secretary, North Eastern and Yorkshire Districts

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"
"The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

IN referring to Zonal Geraniums (Pelargoniums) last month I had not space to mention several varieties which are not very well known, but which have strong claims as bedders. Just as the old Henry Jacoby gave place to the wonderful Paul Crampel, so the latter may have to yield precedence to Gustave Emit, or Dr. Halkerston, or Decorator. Decorator has been grown long enough to become familiar with many growers, but not so the other two. If Gustave Emit does as well with the rank and file of growers as it was doing at Kew this summer, Paul Crampel will be hard put to it to hold its own. Of good habit, large of pip and of truss, and with fine solid colour not far from that of Paul Crampel, Gustave Emit is a grand variety. Salmon Crampel has many admirers and is larger, though not of richer colour, than M. Kovalesky.

Madame Crousse is the only Geranium grown to-day that I can find in a book fifty years old. It is, of course, an Ivy-leaf. Park gardeners have kept it alive because of its sturdy habit and remarkable floriferousness, not because of its colour, which, to tell the truth, is rather washy. Has it degenerated in that particular? The old book to which I refer described it as rose. Would that it were. A rich rose-pink with the vigour of Madame Crousse would be a treasure. I saw a deep red Ivy-leaf in the Royal Gardens which should be made a note of—name, Abel Carrière.

The wet summer has given vigour to Dahlias—almost too much, indeed, creating a tendency to reduce the flowering. Varieties which were naturally floriferous, and not only so but pushed the flowers up well above the foliage, have been causing disappointment owing to the blooms being fewer and half-smothered by the leaves. In brief, the characteristic habit of the variety has been overborne by circumstances. No doubt most of my readers have pursued some amount of defoliation with a view to restoring the balance, and I hope the results have been satisfactory. The dwarf Coltness varieties have not suffered so much as the tall kinds, and this will be accounted to them for righteousness when notes are being made for next year's guidance. While the notebook is out I suggest that those who want to obtain an almost model quartette in different colours put down the names of Coltness Gem as a crimson, Scarlet Gem as a scarlet, Rotherhithe Gem as a yellow, and Lady Aileen as a pink with central ring of ruby. All are fine in colour and wonderfully free of bloom. I saw Scarlet Gem in Kew Gardens in summer and was struck with its brilliance: it is brighter, though not richer, than Coltness Gem.

Some people shy at the single Mignon Dahlias because of the need to gather almost daily, without which attention some of them tend to go out of bloom

prematurely. But for an unexpected event with a variety which has hitherto given a goodly proportion of semi-double and full double flowers I should have advised choosing Mrs. Jefferies, a yellow, but up to the time of writing it has produced nothing but singles this year. Disconcerting, to say the least of it. I am told that the variety Mrs. Musgrave Hoyle, crimson, is one of the best doubles, but I have not grown it. The orange Paisley Gem tends to doubleness.

One of my correspondents, who probably knows more about Dahlias than any dozen of us put together, expresses the opinion that the tall Decorative varieties will drop out, giving place to the Dwarf Decorative or Charm class. I should not wonder. I would take Baby Royal, Baldre, L. C. Page, Lycette, Marianne, and Pink Pearl in preference to any selection of six of the taller class. But I view with some alarm the threat of thousands of seedlings from Baby Royal all closely resembling the parent, which I am told are on the way from raisers all over the world. This variety appears to seed almost too freely, hence the threat referred to.

Is the present summer to give us a bad attack of mildew on our Roses? It is a common belief, and I believe a correct one, that mildew is apt to follow dryness at the roots. There is little of that to complain of this year, yet mildew has appeared in force in more than one collection I know of—collections managed by skilled growers, too. Still worse, it has smitten varieties which are generally healthy. Wise growers will take care to have a tin of mildew wash in hand throughout the remainder of the season. Several kinds are offered by seedsmen and sundriesmen.

Mention of Roses brings propagation to mind, and those who want to try their hands with cuttings should operate towards the end of the present month, by which time the younger shoots will have become at least half ripe and may be taken off—preferably with that small strip of the older wood which gardeners call a heel—and set firmly against the vertical face of a line of gritty soil.

The bulb catalogues are coming in. Remember, please, that Daffodils and Snowdrops in particular benefit by early planting.

Remember, too, that if grass is to be raised from seed this year, September sowing is desirable.

Amongst hardy perennials, Peonies are likely to benefit most by September planting, as they finish their growth earlier than other kinds.

Were carnations layered a few weeks ago? Then there should now be a batch of young plants ready for potting, or for planting out in moist soil dressed with a mixture of lime and bonemeal—say, three ounces per square yard.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

LEADS

ONE of the most difficult problems confronting the Bridge enthusiast is the correct lead, particularly as first player. As, however, the lists usually given in text-books are detailed and lengthy, I will refer to the most important of these.

No Trumps: (1) Lead highest card of any suit declared by your partner, though it is sound to lead the lowest of such suit if you hold four, headed by one of the three top honours. This particular understanding, however, must be known, so that, if in doubt, lead the highest, and do not run the risk of misleading your partner.

The mere fact that your opponents have over-called your partner's suit declaration twice with No Trumps is not generally a sufficient reason—in the absence of a really strong suit of your own—for not opening and persevering with your partner's suit.

(2) Lead a low card of your own longest suit (unless holding 3 in sequence), except in the following cases: (a) Lead King from a holding of 7 headed by A, K, or K, Q. (b) Lead J from A, J, 10, or K, J, 10, etc. (c) Lead Q from A, Q, J, etc.

(3) With 3 cards in sequence, lead the highest.

Trump Suit Game: (1) The lead of the highest card of your partner's suit is usually sound in this case also, but the opportunity should first be taken to indicate any strong suit of your own. If, e.g., you hold A, K, x, x, of another suit, play the King, and then lead for the hand of your partner, who will know what suit to return later.

(2) Lead from a sequence—in preference to opening from a tenace (A, Q, x, or K, J, x).

(3) A singleton lead is sometimes effective, particularly when holding only 2 or 3 small trumps.

(4) Holding A, K, x, or K, Q, x, lead the King.

General Principles: (a) When leading, play the highest of a sequence. When playing to lead of your partner or an opponent, play the lowest; (b) Avoid leading from a doubleton or a tenace; (c) When in doubt as to the best lead, remember the old Whist rule: "Lead through strength and up to weakness"; (d) A lead of a Trump is very effective in certain types of hands; (e) Avoid the Eleven rule, which used to be universally recommended.

Eleven Rule: If, when a player leads his fourth best of a suit, the value of the particular card is deducted from eleven, the difference gives the number of cards higher than the one led which are not in the leader's hand.

If, e.g., your partner leads the 8 of Hearts when playing this convention, it indicates there are 3 cards not in his hand higher than the 8. If, therefore, you see two higher cards in Dummy and you hold the other yourself, you know the fourth player holds nothing better than the 7.

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Local Government in Distressed Areas

FROM recent questions and discussions in the House of Commons, it is evident that certain Members of Parliament living in areas where unemployment is unknown, have little conception of the true position of the "Distressed Areas," and have less sympathy with the people who, unfortunately, have to reside there, or are entrusted with the work of local administration.

In order that those Members of Parliament may try to realise the difficulties which have to be faced, it is necessary to remind them that a government measure, known as the Local Government Act of 1929, deprived all local authorities of seventy-five per cent of the rateable value of industrial hereditaments, and although the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised in Parliament to replace the income from this amount out of state funds, that promise has not yet been fulfilled. In addition to rates lost from this source further reductions in values have also been made through the operation of the Rating of Railways Act, 1931.

To illustrate the effect of the two government measures mentioned above, it is necessary to take a concrete case and show the reduction in rate income imposed by these Acts of Parliament. The position of a certain local authority is as follows:

| | |
|---|--------|
| | £ |
| Loss of rateable value under the 1929 Act | 82,000 |
| Loss of rate income from this source | 81,000 |
| Government grant to replace income lost through de-rating industrial properties .. | 50,000 |
| Rate income which must be found by the ratepayers through the operation of the Act .. | 31,000 |

It must also be noted that the present government grant of £50,000 which is given under the provisions of the 1929 Act is to be reduced by 1/14th part each year (from 1935 to 1949) so that the whole of the amount will disappear as income from the accounts of the local authority after March 31, 1949. This means that the local exchequer will have to find all the amount which formerly was levied on seventy-five per cent of the rateable values of industrial hereditaments in the particular area. Until the Railways' Assessment Authority has finally determined the assessments of the various railways under the 1931 Act, it is impossible to ascertain the further loss which will have to be met out of the local rates, but it is anticipated that the amount will be substantial.

With this enormous added burden, imposed by Government legislation, it is impossible to carry out the necessary public health services in this area, and, of course, the ratepayers can only look forward to higher and higher rates as time goes on.

A further example of how the Government is shifting its financial responsibility

and placing the burden on the local ratepayers is clearly shown in the expenditure on highways. The pre-War expenditure on district roads and bridges of the authority already mentioned, was covered by a rate of 6d. in the £, but to-day, with the increased use of mechanical transport, the rate for this purpose is 1/3d. in the £. No grant is received by the council in aid of the expenditure on roads, the only assistance granted by the Ministry of Transport is in respect of the cost of maintenance, etc., of classified roads of county and county borough councils, and yet motor traffic (which is responsible for a large portion of the increase of road maintenance) is able to make use of all highways.

In the last budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer appropriated the surplus on the Road Fund, although this rightly belongs to the local authorities, and should be paid to them to cover the increased cost of road maintenance work.

The above points are a sufficient answer to any of the Parliamentary critics of local authorities in the areas of distress, and will, I am sure, be a means of shedding light on the mysterious interpretation of certain Acts of Parliament.

What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

Whitleyism—A Protest

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the report contained in the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE for August, 1936, of the meeting of the county branch representatives at the Aberdeen Conference.

I note that I am reported to have stated "that if any attempt were made to introduce compulsory Whitley machinery by Bill in Parliament his district would resort to lobbying Members of Parliament against it."

I think it is extremely unfortunate that whoever was responsible for the report of this meeting has by the framing of the report created an entirely false impression with regard to this matter.

Those present at the meeting of the county officers will agree that there was considerable discussion on the question of Whitleyism, and that I made it perfectly clear that the attitude of my branch and district was due, not because the members were against the principles of Whitleyism, but on account of the fact that they did not feel the need for a Provincial Whitley Council and were of opinion that

such a council would not be welcomed by the various authorities concerned.

In dealing with the amendment which had been tabled by the S.E. District Committee, it was explained that the District Committee considered it discourteous that the National Executive Council should endeavour to obtain a mandate of Conference in favour of compulsory Whitleyism, and at the same time report to conference that it was proposed to enter into further discussions with certain districts that were known to be opposed to the proposals. The District Committee considered that before Conference was asked to give such a mandate, the promised discussions with the opposing districts should take place.

In so far as the statement it is alleged that I made is concerned as to lobbying Members of Parliament against such a measure, I made it abundantly clear to the members that I was not suggesting that such a course would be adopted, but pointed out that it would be a great pity if N.A.L.G.O. sought to take steps for the introduction of a Bill in Parliament without the unanimous agreement of all districts on the subject, and that if on the introduction of a Bill those branches in districts opposed to the measure might even go so far as to feel justified in lobbying against it. It was further pointed out that on the introduction of such Bill it was quite certain that a number of authorities would ask the opinion of the staff organisations and that in the existing circumstances the staff organisations in the districts opposed to the measure, if honest in their convictions, would have to be disloyal to the principles enunciated in a mandate of Conference.

I think you will agree that the question of warning the members of the meeting as to certain eventualities which might arise, is a very different matter to uttering a threat as to what would be done, and that there is this distinction between what I actually put before the county branch representatives in Aberdeen and that which I am alleged to have stated, according to the report in your last issue.

Yours faithfully, W. A. SHEE.

2, College Street, Gloucester.

Building Society

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Whilst fully appreciating the amount of good work N.A.L.G.O. has done in advancing money to enable members to buy their own houses, the scheme, even when 100 per cent of the value is provided, does not in many cases (principally new houses) very greatly assist the young member with a small amount of capital.

What is really wanted is a scheme whereby a small outlay only is required, say, a deposit of £20 to £50, according to the price of the property, and the repayments made by a weekly or monthly amount which would include all other charges, legal, etc.

This, I feel sure, would greatly assist hundreds of members who are at present unable to embark on a project of this nature.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. LAMPERT.

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The Lancashire and Cheshire Students' Society has now completed the final arrangements with the local authorities for the holding of evening lecture courses at Manchester and Preston for those who intend preparing for the examinations of the Association.

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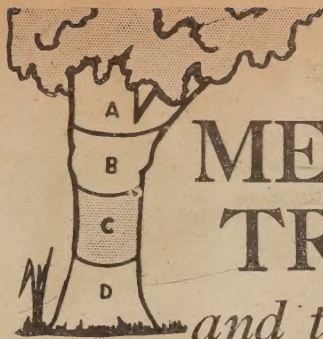
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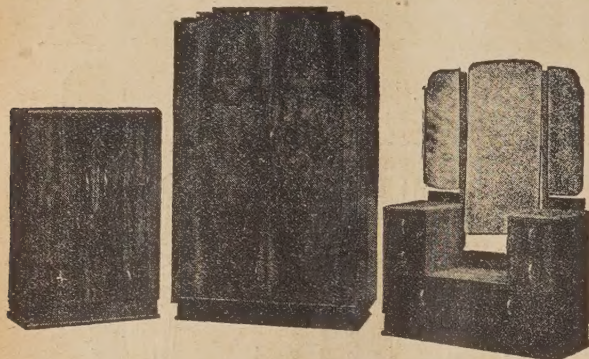
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